

**Mark 15:38-39**

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Sermon

What is good about this night? What is good about about friends who turn away, deny and betray? What is good about a blood thirsty crowd who cheers and celebrates death? What is good about a weak politician who denies justice for the innocent? What is good about soldiers who bully, beat, spit, and pierce? What is good about the pain of nails, the weight of a body hanging from a tree, of murder? What is good about this cross, a sign of violence and suffering, pain and death? Absolutely nothing is good about this night, nothing is good about injustice and abandonment, nothing is good about bullying or death, nothing is good about glorifying violence and killing. Nothing! It is darkness, evil, ugly.

It would be so much easier to skip over this night. To jump from triumphal entry and palms, to white lilies and empty tombs. It is easier to turn off the news and skip over the suffering of families struggling with drug addiction, to become numb to the stories of war and violence in foreign lands, and the murders of innocent neighbors because the color of their skin or the God that they worship. It can be all just too much to handle, we feel depressed and helpless, lost and sad. Is it just a waste of time to be preoccupied with things that are out of our control. What can we do about it?

What can we do, we can sit at the foot of the cross. We can look upon all that is evil and broken in this world, the injustice and cruelty, the broken and abandoned. We can sit at the foot of the cross and allow our hearts to be broken, allow our tears to fall, allow our minds to be overwhelmed. We can look upon the cross, upon the death of our savior and see in him the pain and the suffering of the entire world, neighbors near and far.

At at the foot of the cross we can find that our broken hearts can become a changed heart. Like the soldier who was participated in the mocking of Jesus, spitting and beating, who carried out the cry of the crowd to crucify him, who pierced his side, at the foot of the cross we can finally see and confess, "Surely this is the Son of God!"

We have the privilege knowing the Easter is coming, that the story is not over, the life wins out and that the tomb cannot contain our Lord.

But tonight we are called to stay in the brokenness, to lament the pain and the death that is so real in the world and in our lives. The apostle Paul writes that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Not death or life, angels or demons, the present or future, not powers, not height or depth - nothing in all creation can

separate us from the God's love - at the foot of the cross, God's love is made visible for all of the broken world, let us stay so that we might bare witness and believe.