

Rev. Derek Fairman

Good Friday

This day we remember the Sacrifice that the Lord Jesus made for us. We remember that the Lord Jesus turned what appeared to be a defeat into a victory. We remember that the Lord's death is our redemption. We can look back upon the Lord's death not as something to look past or to mention only briefly, but to look upon with awe and wonder as the angelic host did.

The Passion Narrative from the Gospel According to John begins in the Garden of Gethsemane. There we find the Lord with His disciples. The bonds of love and charity and friendship that they held in the Upper Room during the Last Supper continued in the garden.

Judas and those sent to arrest the Lord Jesus then entered into that garden. This might remind us of how sin entered this world: Adam and Eve walked with the Lord, and then by the serpent's temptation, sin entered into this world. Well, evil once again appears, this time in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Lord Jesus must confront this evil.

The Lord Jesus does confront this evil, but not in the way that we would. The Passion Narrative today also ends in a garden: a garden in which there was a new tomb. It might seem as if the Lord Jesus confronted evil and lost; no doubt that is how it looked to the disciples and many others. However, we know that His death is not the end of the story. His death does not even mean that He is defeated.

The Lord Jesus has overcome death and sin and evil by His death. We ask the Lord today to give us the eyes of faith to see His victory. It is a hidden victory, undoubtedly. Yet that victory is shared with us. The victory that the Lord Jesus won: He shares that victory and those graces with us, because we have our own confrontations.

There are certain moments, times and places in which we are tempted. There are moments when evil breaks into some part of our lives, and we must confront that evil. We have our own gardens, so to speak, in which we must confront evil. Through the graces that the Lord Jesus has won for us, may we not cling to our sinful inclinations, but resist evil by all the strength that we have.