

Day 3: When It Feels Like Darkness Wins

Scripture: *Luke 23:44-46* — “It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land... for the sun stopped shining.”

There are moments in life where everything shifts... and not in a good way.

The sky darkens.

The atmosphere changes.

And what once felt steady suddenly feels uncertain.

That’s what happened on the cross.

In the middle of the day—when the sun should have been at its highest—darkness covered everything.

And that detail matters.

Because it wasn’t supposed to be dark.

When Life Doesn’t Make Sense

Friday didn’t match what the disciples expected.

They had seen miracles.

They had heard the promises.

They believed Jesus was the answer.

But now... He’s hanging on a cross.

Beaten. Bloodied. Silent.

And if you were standing there, you wouldn’t have had the benefit of hindsight. You wouldn’t know Sunday was coming.

All you would see... is loss.

We’ve All Had “Friday” Moments

Moments where what you believed doesn’t seem to line up with what you’re experiencing.

- You prayed... but nothing changed
- You trusted... but things still fell apart
- You obeyed... and it still cost you
- You believed God would come through... but you're still waiting

And in those moments, something dangerous starts to creep in:

Doubt.

Not loud, obvious doubt—but quiet questions like:

“God, where are You?”

“Did I get this wrong?”

“Why would You let this happen?”

Jesus Felt the Weight Too

One of the most powerful—and often overlooked—moments of the cross is when Jesus cries out:

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

That wasn't weakness.

That was the weight of the moment.

Even Jesus, in His humanity, felt the heaviness of what looked like separation, silence, and suffering.

So if you've ever felt that way—you're not faithless.

You're human.

The Truth You Can't See Yet

Here's what no one standing at the cross could fully understand:

God was doing His greatest work in the darkest moment.

Not after the cross.

Not once things got better.

Right there... in the pain.

What looked like defeat...

What felt like silence...

What appeared to be the end...

Was actually the setup for resurrection.

Don't Mislable Your Season

One of the biggest mistakes we make is calling something “over” that God is still working in.

We say:

- “This is falling apart”
- “This isn't working”
- “This must not be God”

But Friday teaches us something critical:

You can be in the middle of God's will and still be in the middle of a storm.

The presence of pain does not mean the absence of God.

Faith in the Dark

Real faith isn't just praising God when everything is going right.

Real faith says:

“I don't understand this... but I still trust You.”

“I don't see movement... but I still believe You're working.”

“This hurts... but I know You're not finished.”

That kind of faith doesn't come easy.

But it's the kind that carries you from Friday... to Sunday.

Real-Life Reflection

Where does your life feel dark right now?

Not surface-level answers—go deeper.

- Is it a relationship that's strained?
- A situation that won't turn around?
- A burden you've been quietly carrying?
- A prayer that feels like it's hitting the ceiling?

That place... that's your Friday.

Hold Onto This

Darkness may have covered the land...

But it didn't cancel the plan.

God had not stepped away.

God had not lost control.

God had not forgotten His promise.

And He hasn't forgotten you either.

Reflection Question

Where in your life does it feel like darkness is winning right now—and can you trust God in that place anyway?

Prayer

God,

Some parts of my life feel heavy and unclear, and if I'm honest, I don't always understand what You're doing.

When things feel dark, help me not to lose my faith.

Remind me that just because I can't see the outcome doesn't mean You're not working behind the scenes.

Give me strength to trust You in the middle—not just at the end.

And help me hold on to hope, knowing that Sunday is still coming.

In Jesus' name We Pray, Amen.