What is Good about Good Friday?

Every year, Christians around the world pause on Good Friday to reflect on one of the most profound moments in human history, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. To many, it might seem strange to call such a day "good." After all, it marks the painful and unjust death of an innocent man. But for those who understand the heart of the Christian faith, Good Friday is good not because of the pain and suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, but because of what that pain and suffering accomplished for humanity. It's a day of mercy, a mercy that changed everything.

At its core, mercy is compassion shown to someone who could be punished yet they are offered grace instead. In Christian belief, humanity was separated from God by sin. Humanity chose to turn away from God's love and to rebel against Him. Justice might have meant leaving us separated from God and making us face His perfect judgement, but instead, God chose to enter into our brokenness and chose to come to our rescue. In Jesus, He took on human flesh and bore the weight of our sin. Good Friday marks the moment when mercy triumphed over justice.

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most significant weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the pivotal event and the decisive turning point for all creation.

So, the crucifixion wasn't a tragic accident; it was a deliberate act of love. Jesus knew the cost. He willingly walked that road, knowing what it would mean. He was mocked, beaten, and nailed to a cross, not because of anything He did, but because of what we had done. And in His final breath, He didn't speak words of anger or judgment, but of forgiveness: **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).** That moment was the ultimate expression of mercy.