

Hanging Around on Saturday

Holy Week is full of drama. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and betrayal (on Maundy Thursday), the sequence of Good Friday events, and Sunday's resurrection are the most remembered happenings of this life-changing, powerful week. What isn't chronicled in the Bible is the day between the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What happened on that Saturday is left to our imagination. Reading about Holy Week today, we have the advantage of knowing the resurrection is coming. People experiencing it in "real-time" had no idea of what was to come.

In his book, He Chose the Nails, Max Lucado shares his perspective of the Saturday for John, one of Jesus' disciples. Lucado wrote, "John didn't know that Friday's tragedy would be Sunday's triumph." While John had every reason to flee to avoid possible arrest and punishment by the Romans and religious leaders, he hung around. On Saturday and throughout Jesus' 3-year public ministry, John was loyal to Jesus. He loved Jesus. It was a confusing, dangerous time, yet John hung around. Because he did, John was present for the miracle on Sunday. On Easter morning, the Bible tells us that John and Peter ran to the tomb when they heard that the tomb was empty. John reached the empty tomb first. They saw the neatly folded strips of linen cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus' body. That was a clear sign that Jesus' body had not been maliciously stolen, but this was part of God's carefully orchestrated plan. Jesus is alive. The bible records of John that *"He saw and believed"* (John 20:8).

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Friday	Saturday
2 Good Friday	3
9	10

Romans 8:28 is a familiar passage and one I often quote in devotionals because it applies directly to us today. It says, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* The passage describes what God promises and for whom. Lucado emphasizes the part which says, *"of those who love him."* What seemed like a tragedy on the cross God worked into "good" for those who love Jesus. The verse assures us that God will work good into the tragedies of your life as a believer who loves Jesus. Because of the resurrection, John's life was changed forever. It can do the same for your life. John was present on Saturday so that he would experience the triumph of Sunday.

We understand that our salvation is possible because of the resurrection. There are additional implications for us today. God delivers on His promise to create something good out of bad situations. God turned the tragedy of the cross into victory then, and He will turn today's tragedies into tomorrow's successes for those who believe and love Jesus. What disasters are you facing today? As we experience tragedies in real-time, we have no way of knowing the good that God will make from it. We have to trust that God will orchestrate good from whatever we face. It is His promise to us. Trusting God is what faith is all about. John saw and believed. So can we.

We all will have "Saturdays" in our lives, the difficult time wedged between tragedy and triumph. As we go through it in "real-time," we may be in a state of confusion, feeling lost, and unsure of what will happen next. As John did, hang tough and stay the course of faith when all seems lost. Sunday is coming. Despite what you are facing, God has good things in store for those who love Him. Do you love Him?

Question: Can you think of a time when something bad happened in your life, and something good came out of the situation?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We know there are bad things that happen to all of us. We also know that, if we are patient, we will see the silver lining "good" from those situations. Give us patience as we trust you, Lord. Amen.