

Reflection Good Friday April 3, 2015 Sr. Rosemary Sherman, RSM on the Gospel of Mark

In an unlikely place, unimaginable hope was born. Calvary. Who would have thought hope could ever come from there? The women who stood under the Cross? Those crucified with Jesus? What about us?

Is your hope and your heart with Jesus whose prayer and trust in God led Him to push beyond despair and the cries of the crowd to face death and the ultimate surrender of His life here on earth?

We just heard “This man is really the Son of God!” How did the centurion know that? Did he experience a conversion of heart and could not help but follow the Spirit’s lead? Did he sense God’s presence? Was there something so deep within that he couldn’t remain silent? Did he sense hope was there somehow? I suspect the answer is a resounding yes!

And what about us today? Are we willing to hope in something beyond the finality of death?

Today, Jesus is doing what He always did:  
Following the voice within.  
Following His dream.  
Resisting evil.  
Being faithful.  
Hoping deeply.

You see, it is **within** the Good Fridays of our lives that we find our redemption. Good Friday teaches us that God can be trusted. In the midst of Jesus’ agony today, Jesus trusted in God. It may seem that God was silent when Jesus cries out: “eloi, eloi lema sabachthani” but we know that silence is filled with God’s love, merciful forgiveness and hope. I heard once that suffering comes from our own resistance to being who we are called to be. For that, we need hope.

When we see Jesus on the Cross, He is the one with open hands – emptying Himself, holding nothing back. He has hope.

A lesson I learned very early in life was like it or not, I have to share. Isn't that what Jesus taught us to do? We are called to share with others as part of our call we received at our Baptism. Sharing our time, our talent, our treasure, yes but also sharing our hope.

We are called to be His witnesses. But, that is not easy. For we are called to be witnesses like Veronica. To minister to those who carry their cross today, to wipe the blood and spit and tears from the faces of those in need and pain.

We are called to be witnesses like Simon of Cyrene. To be unexpectedly pressed into service to willingly carry the cross, and lift the burdens of Christ in our midst.

This Jesus Who said:

Has no one condemned you?

Pick up your mat and go home.

Leave her alone.

Come and see.

And last night said take, eat, stay with Me now says few words and lets His very presence say it all. And in the end, as He was dying for us, asks the Father to forgive. He has hope.

What about each of us today on this Good Friday?

Can you cry out from your heart and say truly this man is the Son of God?

Can you dare to share your hope with others?

If not, why not?

**Where** is your heart?