

Stop! Every year on Good Friday, I read all the things happening to Jesus, and I want to shout:
STOP!

Stop the plot, the lies, the betrayal, the arrest, the denial, the false testimony, the injustice. Stop the corruption, the trial, the abandonment, the mocking, the rejection, the “Crucify Him!”, the abuse, the beating, the nailing, the bleeding, the suffering, the pain... STOP!

Does it have to be this way? Is our sin really this bad?

But it doesn't stop... and not only because of jealous, hateful, selfish, religious leaders...

It was God:

It was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer. (Isaiah 53:10 NIV)

It was God's will?

What about our world today?

What about coronavirus?

What about hoarding and competing for testing kits, PPE's, and ventilators?

What about leaders blaming other leaders?

STOP!...

What about victims dying alone? STOP...

But it doesn't stop...

Our world is broken, cursed since our first parents were cast out of the garden.

The sin doesn't stop, not even in our personal lives: the jealousy, the temptation, the unfaithfulness, the hatred, the bullying, the name calling, the bitter sarcasm, the mocking, the racism, the pornography, the abuse, the violence, the delight in evil, the abandonment, the smug self-righteousness, the judgmental spirit...

STOP!

But it doesn't stop... even when we try.

I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

(Romans 7:19, 24 NIV)

Rescue me?

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6 NIV)

He took our place... That's why it didn't stop.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

Jesus took a broken world on His back and carried it to the cross and the Sin crushed Him.
God had to stop sin, that's why this trip to Calvary didn't stop.

He took all our sins, and the sins of everyone who ever lived or will live... He took on all the sins,
that's why it didn't stop.

And the whole thing won't stop until God is dead... instead of us.

It is His mission... It's why He came.

And it won't stop until

Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
(John 19:30 NIV)

That was light at the end of the tunnel, the forgiveness of sin, our sin.

Life stopped in Jesus... ..until the third day.

That was when GOD STOPPED SIN.

God stopped the finality of sin. God condemned sin,
God stopped the guilt, the hopelessness, the regret that we could never change.

...when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6 NIV)

Nothing can ever stop the unrelenting love of God.

That's why, even in these days,
Even in the darkness of Good Friday. We still proclaim:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love ENDURES FOREVER.
(Psalm 136:1 NIV)

God's love CANNOT BE STOPPED.

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