The Saddest Day (Good Friday)

Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23:33-49

Oh, that was a glad day, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey and people spread their robes on the ground and waved palm branches and the children sang and sang until the music seemed to rise to the very skies! It seemed absolutely impossible that anything dreadful could happen after such a glad day.

But it did.

It all began with some people who did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. It would have been quite dreadful enough if they just didn't believe it and let it go at that. But they didn't stop there. They sent a band of soldiers after Jesus. And the soldiers caught Him in a garden where He was praying to God. And they arrested Him and dragged Him before the ruler. And the ruler had Him tied to a post and whipped. It would have been dreadful enough if they had stopped THERE. But they did not.

When the ruler asked the people what they wanted to do with Jesus, some people cried out, "Kill him!" Then MORE people cried out, "KILL HIM!" They cried it out louder and louder and LOUDER, until there was such confusion and noise and shouting that it seemed to rise to the very skies, just the way the singing had done on that excit-

ing day when Jesus road into Jerusalem!

But this was different from the singing. This was different from the glad, exciting day.

The people who didn't believe in Jesus made a big wooden cross. They dragged Jesus into the street. They made Him carry the cross through the city. They took Him to a hill just outside the city. And there, on that hill, they nailed Him by His hands and His feet to the cross. And they put the cross in a hole in the ground, so it stood up straight and tall. And there they left Him to die.

It seemed incredible! Jesus was dead! It was just so hard to believe! JESUS was dead!

It was all over. All the gladness was over.

His friends took Him down from the cross. They carried Him—oh so tenderly—to a garden tomb. And there they wrapped Him in soft clean cloths. And there they left Him.

The soldiers rolled a HUGE stone over the door of the tomb. And Jesus' friends felt that there was no more gladness, anywhere in the world, anymore.

It was the saddest day in the world. But little did they know that there was a GLAD day coming! And it was just around the corner! The GLADDEST day in the world was coming!

Stories • All Ages

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Everything seems to be in a hopeless state. But do you know why Jesus left His home in heaven and came to earth to die on the cross? He did this because He LOVES you! He did this to make a way for us to be forgiven for the wrong things we do. This is what the Bible means when it says that Jesus Christ came to be your Savior. Believe it! Let Him KNOW you believe it! It's the most wonderful news in the world!

A BIBLE VERSE TO LEARN

God so loved the world [that means you] *that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever* [that means you again] *believes in him shall...have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

LET'S TALK TO GOD

Dear God, we know that from the beginning of the world You planned to have Jesus die for us. And when the time came, it happened, just as You planned it. We thank Jesus for doing this. And we thank YOU for loving us so much that You sent us a Savior. In Jesus' name, amen.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for your sins. You can receive Jesus as your savior by following the ABCs of salvation.

A=Admit

We need to admit that we are sinners and need to be saved.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

B=Believe

We need to believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and rose from the dead.

I Corinthians 15:3-4 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

We need to believe that God will save us.

C=Call

If we believe, we can call on God to save us and He will.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Jesus dies on the cross.

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41;
Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37