

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

March 10, 2010 – Lent IV

Rev. Craig A. Patterson (Based upon the sermon series
“Words of Life from the Cross,” CPH, 2010.)

“The Compassionate Word”

(Text: John 19: 26-27)

Context: As the pain wracked our Lord's body and His bodily strength was waning, He still had the strength of spirit and character (for His character, His essence is love) to care for the earthly needs of His mother, Mary. Widows were, at the time our Lord lived on earth, especially weak and vulnerable. Widows and orphans were especially cared for by the first century Christian churches as the apostles directed Christians to target these vulnerable ones for extra care. The example of our Lord here demonstrates an attentive and compassionate love under extreme circumstances. From this fourth word (statement) from the cross, life and love pour into our lives today.

- I. **In The Midst Of Pain And Disappointment Most People Would Be Crushed And Overwhelmed With Grief.**
 - A. No mother expects to bury her son.
 1. This is a pain like no other.
 - B. The disciples, John included, were in shock and great disappointment at the turn of events.
 1. Their Master, Jesus, had been welcomed only days before with shouts of “Hosanna!”
 2. This man of love, kindness, goodness, wisdom, and power was dying on the cross at the hands of evil men. Was evil going to win after all?!
 - C. When we face hardship and fall victim to the evil acts of sinful men, we can experience shock, great grief, despondency, fear, and hopelessness. We can be crushed.
 1. With even the basic necessities of life in question, we could feel abandoned by God.
 2. We could question as to whether or not God has the power to overcome evil.
 - D. When we suffer, it is easy for people to leave our side and it is easy for us to feel isolated and alone.
 1. Suffering can isolate people from people.
 2. Suffering can lead people to feel isolated from God.

- II. **Jesus' Compassion For His Mother And John Demonstrates God's Compassionate Love For Us All.**
 - A. Jesus' compassionate love is a detailed love.
 1. He cared for the specific needs of His mother.
 2. Many scholars believe that Joseph died at a young age and that Jesus had been caring for His mother.
 3. Now, Jesus transfers the task of caring for His mother to John.
 - B. Jesus' compassion cared for the most vulnerable.
 1. Widows and orphans are targeted for special care by the first century church.
 - C. Jesus placed His mother, Mary, into the family with John.
 1. Mary's daily needs would now be cared for by another, by John, her surrogate son.
 2. The Surrogate Sinner (Jesus, being holy carried our sins on Himself for us), gave His mother a surrogate son to care for her.
 - D. Jesus placed John into a family with His mother.
 - E. Jesus places us into our families, into our communities within which we can experience the same compassionate love that Jesus had for His mother and John.
 1. God gives to us children and parents in many and various ways.
 2. He places us in sometimes surprising families.
 3. All for the purpose of receiving and giving His compassionate love.
 4. You are loved. You are never alone. God's compassionate love can and will find you and love you in a detailed way with His detailed, thoughtful, and compassionate love.