

The Transforming Journey

As we journey through Holy Week, from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the glory of Resurrection Sunday, we're reminded of the transforming power of Christ's love. This devotional connects the events of Holy Week with stories of transformation from communities served by International Care Ministries (ICM).

For over three decades, ICM has been witness to remarkable transformations in the lives of families living in ultra-poverty in the Philippines. As our CEO Dave Sutherland has often said, "Ultra-poor people don't believe that their lives will change. We try to teach people hope—that tomorrow can be better."

This profound insight echoes the heart of the Gospel message: hope changes everything.

The stories you'll read in this devotional are about real people who discovered hope in the midst of seemingly hopeless circumstances. Their journeys mirror aspects of Christ's path through Holy Week—a journey that ultimately leads to resurrection and new life.

May these reflections deepen your Holy Week experience and inspire you to be an agent of transformation in your own community.



Palm Sunday:

The Hope That Changes
Everything

Read Matthew 21:1–11



Reflection

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, He fulfilled ancient prophecies about the coming Messiah. The prophet Zechariah had written, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).

The crowd's shouts of "Hosanna!"—which means "Save us now!"—revealed a deep longing for salvation and change. Though many misunderstood what kind of salvation Jesus offered, their desire was genuine.

They hoped for freedom, for restoration, for a better tomorrow.

Hope is a powerful force. It gives us strength to endure present difficulties because we believe something better lies ahead. But for those trapped in generations of poverty, hope can seem impossible. When every day is consumed with survival, when parents watch their children go hungry, when illness goes untreated because medical care is unaffordable—hope becomes a luxury they cannot imagine.

Yet the message of Palm Sunday is that hope arrives in unexpected ways. The crowd expected a conquering king but received a humble servant riding on a donkey.

True transformation often begins differently than we expect, but it always begins with hope—the belief that tomorrow can be better than today.



Transform Story



Inocencio walks with a cane; he suffers from hypertension, a gall bladder stone, and constant pain in his back. In his younger years, he used to be stronger and worked as a security guard for 24 years. But those days are long gone.

Inocencio lives with his wife, and with the support of his children, the couple is able to barely get by. He burns through his monthly pension to support his medical needs. These days, Inocencio sits at home, constantly worried and fearing death.

One day, their local pastor invited him to attend Transform. Unlike most attendees, Inocencio couldn't participate in the hands-on cooking lessons and other activities. But he received far more than he expected—during the values lessons, Inocencio realized that there is hope in Jesus Christ.

Without hesitation, he prayed to give his life to Christ and was baptized the following week.

"My desire is to be baptized because this is what the Bible says. I no longer fear death. I am now ready knowing my salvation is insured in Jesus Christ," Inocencio shares.

Today, though Inocencio still struggles with his health problems and their daily needs—he finds peace knowing that God is with him. Like the crowds on Palm Sunday who glimpsed the arrival of hope in an unexpected form, Inocencio discovered hope not in physical healing or financial security, but in the presence of Christ. His story reminds us that transformation begins when we open ourselves to hope, even when it comes to us differently than we expected.



Invitations

- Take a moment to speak to the Lord about times when hope has seemed distant in your life. Where do you need His hope to enter your circumstances today?
- Ask God to reveal how He might be working in unexpected ways in your current situation. Where might you be overlooking His presence because it doesn't match your expectations?
- Pray about someone in your life who needs to experience hope. How might God be inviting you to be a messenger of hope to them, as the pastor was for Inocencio?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as I reflect on Your entry into Jerusalem and Inocencio's story, I open my heart to You. Where I carry fears like Inocencio once did, replace them with confidence in Your presence. When I worry about tomorrow, remind me that You hold my future. When health, finances, or relationships bring uncertainty, help me find peace in knowing You are with me.

Transform my perspective, Lord, that I might recognize hope even when it arrives differently than I expect. Give me eyes to see beyond my immediate circumstances to the deeper hope You offer.

And as You fill me with this hope, let it overflow to others. Help me notice those who, like Inocencio, sit alone with their worries and fears. Give me courage to extend invitations that might become pathways to transformation. Make me a bearer of unexpected hope in my home, workplace, and community.

During this Holy Week, teach me to walk the path of compassion, seeing needs and responding with the same love that led You into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Amen.

Holy Monday: Cleansing for Purpose

Read Mark 11:15-19



Reflection

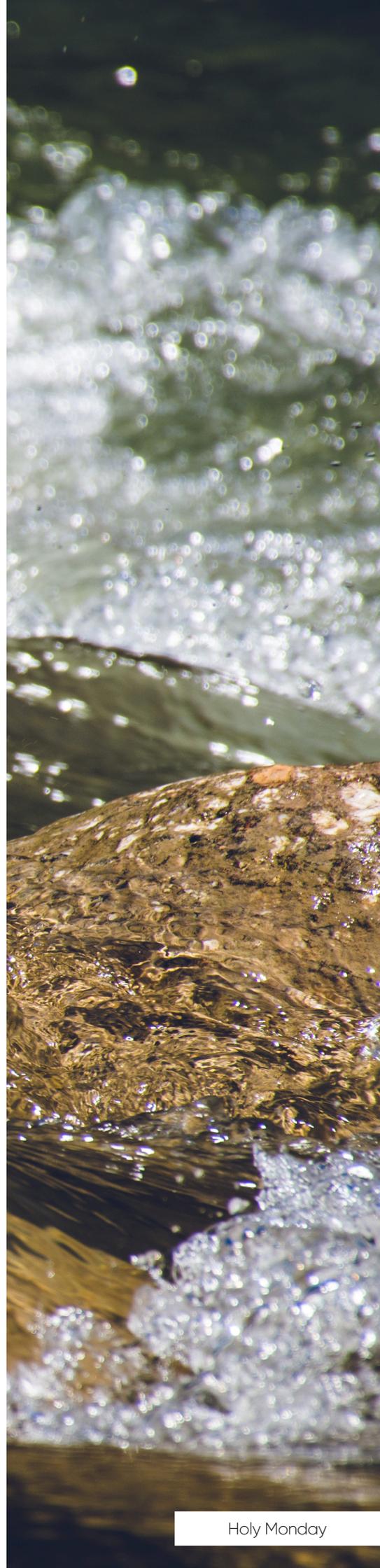
The day after His triumphal entry, Jesus visited the temple in Jerusalem. What He found there moved Him to righteous anger. The temple courts—meant to be a place where all nations could come to pray—had been transformed into a marketplace where exploitation was commonplace. Foreign visitors were forced to exchange their currency at unfair rates and purchase sacrificial animals at inflated prices.

With holy zeal, Jesus overturned tables and drove out the merchants. This wasn't a spontaneous outburst but a deliberate action to restore the temple's true purpose. "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations," He declared, quoting Isaiah. "But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Jesus's actions in the temple remind us that sometimes transformation requires clearing away what doesn't belong. For many of us, life becomes cluttered with distractions, harmful habits, or misplaced priorities that keep us from our true purpose. We may need a "table-turning" moment when we honestly confront what needs to change.

Yet cleansing is never just about removing what's wrong—it's about making space for what's right. Jesus cleared the temple courts not simply to disrupt commerce but to restore the temple's purpose as a house of prayer for all nations. His cleansing action was purposeful, intentional, and restorative.

The same is true in our lives. Growth often begins with identifying and removing obstacles to allow space for renewal and restoration to take place. Sometimes the most powerful first step toward transformation is simply clearing away what doesn't belong.



Transform Story



"I didn't have time for my family. I neglected taking care of them and providing for their needs," Gemma recounts of her lowest point.

After her husband died, Gemma turned to gambling, smoking, and drinking. She spent their family income from selling vegetables to support her vices. Gemma started neglecting her children.

But Gemma's life took a turn for the worse in 2019 when a fire struck their community, razing houses—including their own. They were forced to relocate farther from their source of income. Now, Gemma had no means to earn money.

Just as she was at her lowest point, hope came. Gemma's daughter invited her to come to church one Sunday and it was through the pastor that she learned about Transform. Gemma felt a deep sense of hope and excitement.

As Gemma continued to attend the Transform sessions, hope continued to bloom. Soon, she realized that she wanted something more for herself and her children. She became active in church and her relationship with her children was restored. Gemma is now focused on taking care of her family.

"My neighbors and friends tell me that I have changed. I have learned to say no every time they offer me a shot of alcohol," Gemma shares.

"I am thankful to ICM sponsors because their help reached our community. I would not have learned about values, health, and livelihood if it wasn't for Transform."

Like Jesus clearing the temple to restore its true purpose, Gemma cleared away the habits that were keeping her from her purpose as a mother. Her story reminds us that transformation often begins with removing what doesn't belong to make room for what truly matters.



Invitations

- Bring before the Lord areas of your life that may need "clearing out" – habits, attitudes, or distractions that keep you from your true purpose. Ask Him to help you identify what needs to change.
- In prayer, consider how your priorities align with God's purpose for you. Where might He be calling you to redirect your energy and resources?
- Ask God to show you what renewal could look like in your life after clearing away obstacles, just as Gemma experienced restoration in her relationships.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as I reflect on Your actions in the temple and Gemma's story of transformation, search my heart. Show me where I've allowed distractions or harmful habits to take root. Give me courage to overturn tables that need overturning in my life.

I ask for Your wisdom to identify what needs to be cleared away so that I can fulfill my true purpose. Restore in me a clear vision of what matters most, just as You sought to restore the temple as a house of prayer.

As You work in my life, I also pray for those like Gemma who are trapped in destructive patterns. For parents neglecting their children, for those in the grip of addiction, for all who have lost sight of their purpose—bring Your transforming power. Use me to be an instrument of invitation and hope in their lives.

Help me to live with the same holy zeal You demonstrated, passionate about preserving what is sacred and reclaiming what is lost. Amen.

Holy Tuesday: Teaching Wisdom

Read Matthew 24:3-8



Reflection

During the final week of His life, Jesus spent time teaching those who came to Him with questions. In today's passage, the disciples approached Jesus privately, seeking guidance about uncertain future events. They recognized their need for wisdom beyond their own understanding.

Jesus responded not by giving them a detailed timeline, but by offering practical wisdom they could apply in their daily lives: "Watch out that no one deceives you... See to it that you are not alarmed." He taught them how to discern truth and maintain peace amid uncertainty.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus met people where they were. He recognized that wisdom takes different forms depending on our needs and circumstances. For some, wisdom meant understanding spiritual mysteries; for others, it meant learning practical skills to care for family or manage resources.

Regardless of its form, true wisdom transforms. It changes not just what we know but how we see ourselves and our place in the world. When Jesus taught, He wasn't simply transferring information—He was equipping His followers to navigate life with new confidence and purpose.

For those living in poverty, wisdom often comes in the form of practical knowledge and skills. Learning how to read, how to care for one's health, or how to manage limited resources can transform not just individual lives but entire families for generations to come.



Transform Story



"I never thought I could be a teacher, until I taught my son the alphabet and numbers and realized that I can do it!" shares Rodney of teaching his 5-year-old son Rutchi.

Rodney only finished sixth grade and works as a seasonal farm laborer. After his wife left years ago, he's raised his three children with his mother's help. Though living in poverty, Rodney dreams of his children getting an education he never had. When he realized Rutchi needed to learn his ABCs before starting school, Rodney felt lost—he didn't know how to teach and believed this should be a mother's role.

When Rodney heard about Family Academy in his community, he signed them up. Through the coaching sessions, Rodney's confidence grew as he learned to guide his son's learning. Using interactive games and colorful flashcards, Rutchi began to count and read, while Rodney reinforced lessons at home with the provided resources.

"I enjoy teaching Rutchi," Rodney shares. "To encourage him, we agreed that once he masters his lessons in school, he'll teach me in return."

After completing the 10-week program, both are excited for school to begin. Rutchi dreams of becoming a teacher, and his father has no doubts his son will succeed.

Rodney recognized his limitations but didn't let them prevent him from seeking wisdom for his son's future. The journey transformed not only Rutchi's prospects but also Rodney's view of himself, revealing capabilities he never knew he had.



Invitations

- Where in your life do you need wisdom or understanding right now? Take a moment to acknowledge this need before God, just as the disciples approached Jesus with their questions.
- Consider a time when gaining new knowledge changed how you saw yourself or your capabilities. How might God be inviting you to step beyond perceived limitations today?
- Who in your life might be waiting for you to share wisdom or knowledge that could transform their future? Ask God to show you opportunities to teach or mentor others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master Teacher, I come to You acknowledging my need for wisdom. Like Your disciples who asked questions and like Rodney who sought help for his son, I recognize that I don't have all the answers.

Thank You for meeting me where I am. Help me to be open to learning in all its forms—whether spiritual insights, practical skills, or new ways of seeing myself and others. Where I face limitations, show me pathways to growth.

I pray for those who lack access to education and opportunity. For parents striving to give their children a better future, for children with dreams and potential waiting to be developed—provide teachers, mentors, and resources that nurture growth.

Use me, Lord, to share what I've learned with others. Help me recognize the wisdom You've placed within me that others might need. And in all things, may I approach life with the humility of a lifelong learner, always ready to grow in Your truth. Amen.

Holy Wednesday: Seeds of Change

Read John 12:23–26



Reflection

As Holy Week approached its pivotal moments, Jesus shared a profound agricultural metaphor: "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

In this simple image, Jesus captured the paradoxical power of sacrifice and small beginnings. A seed must be surrendered to the soil before it can multiply and bear fruit. What appears to be an ending becomes a beginning. What seems insignificant contains immense potential. Jesus was preparing His disciples for the apparent defeat of the cross, helping them understand that His death would not be the end of the story. From His sacrifice would come abundant life and redemption for many.

This principle of small beginnings applies to our lives today. Transformation often starts with something seemingly insignificant: a single decision, a small investment, a modest change in habits. These seeds, when nurtured over time, can grow into life-changing outcomes.

For those living in poverty, this truth offers particular hope. Sometimes all that's needed to begin breaking the cycle of scarcity is a small opportunity that, when given time to grow, can transform not only individual lives but entire communities.

As we reflect today, we might ask: What seeds of change is God inviting us to plant? What small beginnings might yield a harvest beyond what we can imagine?



Transform Story



"I feel like I found myself again. I was able to share my story, build my confidence, and move on slowly but surely. I was able to process my emotions which made me feel better." – Jill

Jill felt lost and almost took her own life because of grief when she lost four children. Three of her kids drowned in a river, and she miscarried her fourth. Because of deep sadness, Jill became withdrawn and started avoiding others.

After joining Transform, Jill slowly started to open up to others. Through the program's trauma healing sessions, she learned that her feelings were valid. She also learned to deal with her loss in a healthy way and now feels more confident about facing the future.

Jill's journey illustrates how small steps can lead to significant healing. Her decision to attend Transform sessions—a small beginning—opened the door to a process of recovery. Though her grief was overwhelming, the simple acts of showing up and gradually sharing her story became the first steps toward rebuilding her life.

The trauma healing sessions provided Jill with small but meaningful tools for processing her emotions. Each conversation, each validation of her feelings, each moment of connection with others who understood—these were all small seeds of healing. Though the process was gradual, these small beginnings produced significant change in how Jill viewed herself and her future.

Her story reminds us that transformation often begins with seemingly insignificant steps—attending a meeting, sharing a thought, accepting support. When nurtured over time, these small seeds of change can yield meaningful growth even after unimaginable loss.



Invitations

- What small step have you taken in your life that led to significant positive change? Take a moment to reflect on how God worked through that beginning.
- Is there an area of your life where you need healing or growth? What small first step might you take toward that transformation?
- What small seed of change might God be inviting you to plant today? Ask for the courage to take that first step, trusting that He can nurture it into something meaningful.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Giver of Life, I marvel at how You work through small beginnings to bring about transformation. Thank You for the wisdom of the seed—teaching us that significant growth often starts with the smallest steps.

I pray for those experiencing overwhelming grief like Jill. Comfort them in their pain and guide them toward communities of support where healing can begin. Help them find the courage to take those first small steps toward recovery, and surround them with people who validate their feelings and walk alongside them.

Give me eyes to see the potential in small beginnings—both in my own life and in the lives of others. When I feel overwhelmed by circumstances, remind me that transformation often starts with just one step, one decision, one moment of openness to change.

Thank You for the small seeds You've planted in my life that have grown into blessings I never imagined possible. Help me trust Your timing and Your care as You nurture those seeds to fruition. Amen.

Maundy Thursday: Servant Leadership

Read John 13:3-5, John 13:12-15



Reflection

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus could have focused on Himself—His impending suffering, His disciples' imminent desertion, His own needs in His final hours. Instead, He rose from the table, removed His outer garments, wrapped a towel around His waist, and knelt to wash His disciples' dusty feet.

This act was shocking in its cultural context. Foot washing was a task for the lowest servant, not for a teacher or master. By taking on this humble role, Jesus radically redefined leadership. "I have set you an example," He told His followers, "that you should do as I have done for you." True greatness, Jesus demonstrated, is found in service to others.

In this moment, Jesus didn't just tell His disciples about servant leadership—He embodied it. He showed them that authority is meant to be used not for self-promotion but for lifting others up. Power is meant to serve, not to dominate. The greatest in God's kingdom are those who serve the least.

This upside-down understanding of leadership challenges our natural desire for recognition, comfort, and authority. It invites us to consider: What basins need filling in our communities? Whose feet need washing? What humble tasks are we avoiding that might bring life to others?

For those serving in challenging contexts, Jesus's example offers both validation and inspiration. When the path of service becomes difficult, when resources are scarce, when recognition is lacking—the image of Jesus with towel and basin reminds us that we are following in the footsteps of our Lord.



Transform Story



"The areas we visit are very far, and the roads are dangerous... We go through all that when we visit the families to check on them and see their situation and how they are holding up. They live in extremely difficult conditions." - Pastor Roy Salada

Pastor Roy serves in remote mountain communities near General Santos in the Philippines. Like Jesus who set aside comfort to serve His disciples, Pastor Roy regularly traverses treacherous terrain to reach families living in poverty. He doesn't wait for them to come to him—he goes to them, regardless of the personal cost.

"They survive by relying on their meager income working the fields," Pastor Roy explains. "Many of them hardly go down to the city or have been there. They just live up the mountains with their congregation. I have really witnessed the kind of life they live."

Pastor Roy's ministry exemplifies what it means to take up the towel and basin. The difficult journey to reach these communities would be reason enough for many to stay home. Yet he repeatedly makes this journey because he understands that servant leadership means going where others won't go.

For many pastors like Roy, ICM's training programs provide essential support. Like Jesus who knelt to wash feet, these pastors demonstrate that true leadership isn't about position or power—it's about service. They show us that transformation often begins with someone willing to journey across difficult terrain to meet others at their point of need.



Invitations

- In what ways has Jesus's example of washing His disciples' feet challenged your understanding of leadership and service?
- Where in your life might God be calling you to "take up the basin and towel"? Is there a difficult journey—literal or figurative—that you've been hesitant to make for the sake of serving others?
- Consider the example of pastors like Roy and Ronelcito. What resources or support might help you serve more effectively in your own context? Ask God to provide what you need.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, on the night You were betrayed, You showed us the true meaning of leadership by taking up a towel and basin. Thank You for this powerful demonstration of humble service. Forgive me for the times I've sought position and recognition rather than opportunities to serve others.

I'm moved by the examples of those who travel difficult paths to reach people in need. Give me that same courage and commitment to go where You call me, regardless of personal cost or comfort. Help me see the needs around me through Your eyes and respond with servant hands.

I pray for all who serve in challenging contexts around the world. For those facing physical hardships, navigating obstacles, and ministering in difficult circumstances—strengthen their resolve, protect their journeys, and multiply the impact of their service.

Equip me, Lord, as You equip all Your servants. Show me what tools and resources I need to serve effectively in my own context. And remind me daily that true greatness in Your kingdom is measured not by what I gain but by what I give away in Your name. Amen.

Good Friday:
Sacrifice and Surrender

Read Philippians 2:5–8



Reflection

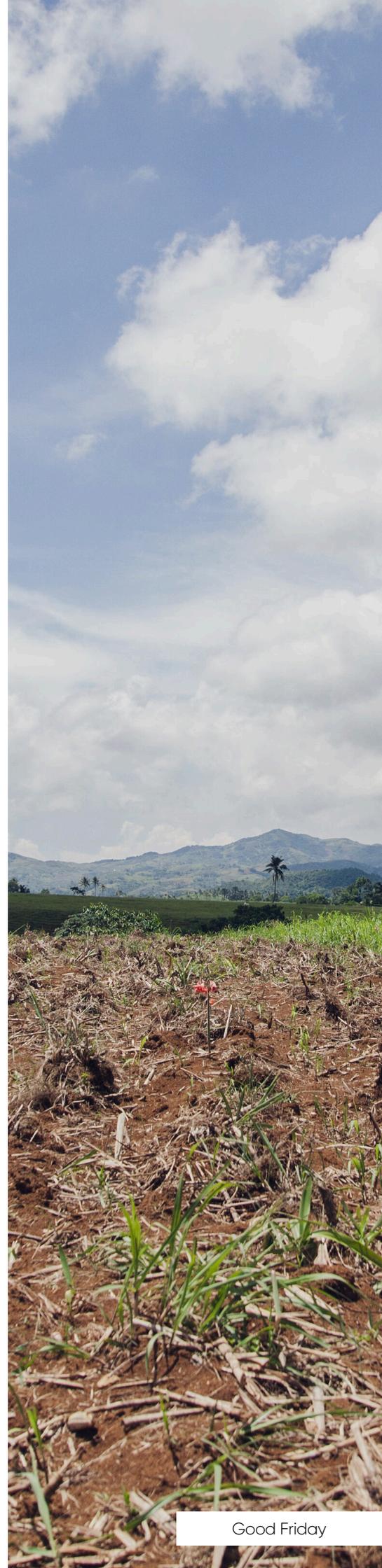
Good Friday brings us to the foot of the cross—to the culmination of Jesus's earthly mission and the greatest act of sacrifice in human history. Jesus, "being in very nature God," chose to set aside divine privilege. He surrendered heavenly comfort for earthly limitation. He sacrificed not just His life, but His rightful place, emptying Himself completely for the sake of others.

The cross reveals the profound truth that the path to new life often runs through sacrifice and surrender. Jesus gave up what was rightfully His so that we might receive what we could never earn. His surrender was not defeat but the means of victory. His sacrifice was not merely loss but the pathway to restoration.

This paradox challenges our natural instincts. We tend to hold tightly to what we believe we deserve—our comfort, our rights, our plans, our dreams. We resist sacrifice because we fear loss. Yet Christ's example invites us to consider: What might God accomplish through our willingness to surrender? What greater purpose might our sacrifices serve?

For those living in poverty, sacrifice is often not a choice but a daily reality. Parents go without food so their children can eat. Dreams are deferred so basic needs can be met. Yet even in these circumstances, we witness how freely chosen sacrifices—motivated by love rather than necessity—can become powerful catalysts for transformation.

As we contemplate the cross today, we might ask: What am I holding onto that God might be asking me to surrender? What sacrifice might I be called to make for the sake of others? How might my willingness to let go create space for God's redeeming work?



Transform Story



Nanay Liezel, a 51-year-old mother living in a house built from old G.I sheets and scrap materials, was determined to lift her family out of poverty. After joining ICM's program, she discovered an opportunity to start a small business making banana fries.

Starting with just 5 pieces sold for 5 pesos to local children, her business gradually grew. Despite using only rudimentary tools, she eventually fulfilled bulk orders of hundreds of pieces per day.

To focus on this growing opportunity, "Nanay Liezel made the difficult decision to pause her studies at the Alternative Learning System (ALS). However, she saw it as a necessary sacrifice to fulfill her financial responsibilities as a mother." This decision bore fruit: "The income she generated from her business not only uplifted her family's financial situation but also helped her provide for the needs of her college-aged son."

Nanay Liezel's small sacrifice points us toward the incomparably greater sacrifice we remember today. On the cross, Christ gave up His very life—freely offering Himself for our salvation. While our human sacrifices are limited, they can still reflect, in a small way, the self-giving love that reached its perfect expression on Calvary.

As Nanay Liezel discovered, "Walking in God's path is not about changing or having a religion, but about faith and determination." On this Good Friday, we are reminded that the path of faith was paved by Christ's ultimate determination to complete His mission of love.



Invitations

- As you reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross, what aspects of His surrender speak most powerfully to your heart today?
- Where in your life might God be inviting you to surrender something you're holding tightly—a plan, a comfort, a right, or a dream? Bring this before Him in prayer.
- Consider the sacrifices others have made for you throughout your life. How might their examples, like Nanay Liezel's, inspire your own willingness to sacrifice for the good of others?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, on this solemn day we stand in awe before Your cross—the ultimate demonstration of sacrificial love. You, who deserved all glory and honor, surrendered everything for us. Help me grasp more fully the depth of Your sacrifice and the height of Your love.

I confess that I often resist surrender. I cling to my comfort, my rights, my plans, fearing what I might lose. Forgive my reluctance to follow where You lead. Give me the courage to open my hands and release what You are asking me to surrender.

I pray for those who, like Nanay Liezel, make daily sacrifices for their loved ones—parents who set aside their own needs for their children, workers who endure hardship to provide for their families, caregivers who give tirelessly with little recognition. Strengthen them and honor their sacrifices.

Transform my understanding of surrender, Lord. Help me see it not as defeat but as the pathway to greater purpose. And when sacrifice feels too costly, remind me of this day when Your greatest loss became our greatest gain. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

Black Saturday: Patient Waiting

Read Luke 23:55–56



Reflection

Black Saturday sits in the space between—between the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. After witnessing Jesus's crucifixion, His followers experienced a day of profound waiting.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that the women who had followed Jesus "went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment."

In that painful gap between loss and restoration, they waited. Their hearts were heavy with grief, their hopes seemingly buried with Jesus in the tomb. Questions likely flooded their minds: Why did this happen? What comes next? How could God allow this?

Black Saturday reminds us that waiting is part of the spiritual journey. There are seasons when God seems silent, when we find ourselves in the space between devastation and deliverance. The disciples didn't know that resurrection was coming. They waited in grief and confusion.

This waiting isn't passive resignation, however. The women prepared spices—taking small, faithful actions while honoring the Sabbath rest. Even in their grief, they continued to follow God's commandments.

In our own lives, we experience Black Saturday moments—times when loss or disappointment leave us waiting in darkness. Yet even in these spaces between, God is at work in ways we cannot see, preparing resurrection that we cannot yet imagine.



Transform Story



"My husband, grandson and I had so many plans and dreams for the future. But those dreams all vanished after the accident," Niegene said. "I suffered from anger, a callous heart, sleepless nights, and lonely days, longing to be with him. I questioned God why it happened to me. My hope in life was gone."

Darkness flooded into Niegene's life the day her 17-year-old grandson was killed in a motorbike accident. Niegene and her husband had taken care of him since he was in kindergarten when their only son had gone to Manila to work.

Niegene found herself in a Holy Saturday space—caught between the life she had known and a future she couldn't imagine. Like the disciples after Jesus's crucifixion, she was overwhelmed by grief, anger, and questions. She was left in a dark period of waiting.

Comfort didn't come immediately. Gradually, Niegene began to take small steps forward. The Transform lessons became a turning point as she found herself engaging with life again. Starting a snack business became one unexpected way she began to reconnect with hope.

"Upon attending Transform, my heart reconnected with God through hearing his Word and singing worship songs. My eyes were opened to see that there is more hope in life," she shared.

Like the first Holy Saturday, her period of grief and questioning wasn't the end of the story. Though resurrection comes differently for each of us, God is always at work, even in the spaces between our losses and our healing.



Invitations

- Have you experienced a "Black Saturday" season in your life—a time of waiting in darkness or grief? How did you navigate that period of waiting?
- What small, faithful actions might God be inviting you to take as you wait for resurrection in difficult circumstances?
- Consider taking 10 minutes today to sit in complete silence. Let your mind rest in the quiet space between loss and hope, remembering that God works even when we cannot see it. Notice what arises in the stillness.

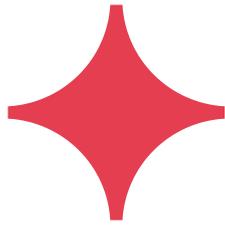
Prayer

Lord Jesus, on this Black Saturday, we remember the darkness that followed Your death—the confusion, grief, and waiting Your followers endured. We acknowledge our own seasons of waiting, when hope seems distant and the way forward unclear.

For those who, like Niegene, are grieving profound losses today—of loved ones, dreams, relationships, or security—be their comfort in the darkness. Help them to see that even this painful waiting is not wasted, that You are present and at work even when Your presence feels hidden.

Give us patience in our waiting, not a passive resignation but an active hope that continues to prepare the spices, to take faithful steps forward even when resurrection seems impossible. When we question where You are in our darkness, remind us that Easter always follows Holy Saturday.

Thank You that darkness and death do not have the final word. As we wait for the dawn of Easter morning, strengthen our faith to trust that You are even now preparing new life where we can see only loss. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.



Extending Hope Beyond Holy Week

Throughout this Holy Week journey, we've witnessed how Christ's path from Palm Sunday to Easter brings hope, transformation, and new life. We've also seen how these sacred truths find expression in the lives of people living in ultra-poverty.

For over three decades, ICM has been privileged to be part of thousands of transformation stories like the ones you've read. With every \$10 invested, another person begins their journey from despair to hope, from scarcity to sufficiency, from isolation to community.

Ways to Participate

For those already supporting this work, thank you for your faithful partnership. Your generosity creates ripple effects that continue long after Holy Week. We're deeply grateful for the way you've chosen to extend Christ's love to those in need.

For those feeling called to join this work, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might participate:

- Pray for families living in ultra-poverty and for the local pastors who serve them
- Give to support ICM's Transform program at caremin.com/startingwithme2025
- Share these stories with others who might be moved to get involved

Don't miss our Resurrection Sunday devotional!

The final devotional in this series will be delivered via our email newsletter on Easter morning.

Subscribe at caremin.com/subscribe to receive this special message and stay connected with transformation stories throughout the year.

