

Things Make Room for Good Things

Scripture: Psalm 22:1, 19-26

Date: April 2, 2021

Message:

The crucifixion of Jesus was a terrible event. It was a brutal murder of not only an innocent man, but a perfect man, someone that never sinned. If we were faced with the pain and suffering that Jesus knew would lay ahead, most of us would be running for the hills. But Jesus stood his ground because he knew what needed to be done to pay the necessary penalty for all our sins.

Jesus' sacrifice provided the opportunity for salvation. He removed the barrier between us and God, so that those who believe in him will receive eternal life.

The thought that God loves us so much that he sacrificed his only son simultaneously drains our hearts and refills them with love. And now we have the hope of an everlasting life with him.

A 'sacrifice,' according to Microsoft Bing dictionary, is to provide a kill or offering to a divine being. We must ask ourselves, what has God asked us to kill except for our sinful nature? What has God asked us to offer except for our allegiance to God alone, our service to better the kingdom and a tithe of return?

As Christians we all make sacrifices. But when we compare our personal sacrifices to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, the things we sacrifice could not even be considered sacrifices.

Jesus made it very easy for us to have salvation and everlasting life, but Jesus also told us there would be opposition and suffering along the way.

Just as Jesus' sacrifice on the cross created an opportunity for salvation, we must also recognize that the sufferings in our lives create opportunities. God always provides a way, a different way, the only way. We may view our course change as a bad thing, but it makes room for good things.

One Sunday from the pulpit I thanked God for what he was doing in my life, and I also thanked the congregation for allowing God to work through them to reach me.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Son, whose work on the cross created the opportunity for our salvation. Holy Spirit keep us mindful that in comparison, our sacrifices are merely small disruptions. And we also give thanks that You have already provided, in advance, a different way to overcome those distractions. We ask this in the Precious Name of Jesus. Amen.*

Lloyd (Jay) Phillips
Dallas United Methodist Church
Northern District
Lloyd.Phillips@AutoZone.com
Charge Treasurer