

Devotion from the past ... 2003

Read [2 Corinthians 12:9](#)

Wholly Weak

I'm no longer the 90-pound weakling I was in high school. The extra 100 pounds or so hasn't made me stronger, though. So I still can sing "Jesus Loves Me," with lots of emphasis on the phrase "They are weak . . ."

I'm in good company—people like you, Zacchaeus, Peter, Barabbas—we are weak. While we might not mind being in the company of Zacchaeus or Peter, the mention of Barabbas might spike some high blood pressure. Yet in God's evaluation of sin, all sins are equal. We are as responsible for Jesus' death as is Barabbas or any other notorious sinner (Romans 3:12).

Our Holy Week meditation must constantly take us to the cross. What an ugly thing to do with a tree! Cut it, trim it, nail the Creator's only Son to it. Does the scraping of the saw cut your heart with guilt? Does the ring of hammer on spike puncture your soul with remorse. Does your continuing weakness replay in your mind the somber farewell of Maundy Thursday and the mean sky and trembling ground of Good Friday?

Paul knew the feeling. He rambled about not doing the good he should do and doing the bad that he shouldn't do and how wretched that made him (Romans 7:15-21). (It's a feeling we're tempted to avoid, knowing what Christ accomplished.) But Holy Week needs to remind us that we are wholly weak.

As we contemplate what our sins have done, we can truly appreciate what Christ has done. Because He is wholly holy, He was able to carry the burden of our sins to the cross and pay to leave them there. He was able to borrow a tomb and leave it as clean and fresh as He found it.

Wholly weak. Wholly holy. That's the starting point and the starting point of our walk with Jesus. (No, that wasn't a typo.) It's good to be totally dependent on Jesus, because that recognizes the reality of our sinful nature. While we were yet sinners, in fact, before we were born, Jesus died to take away our sins. That was the only way to get rid of them! Good Friday was absolutely necessary in order to end Holy Week on a high note.

Easter isn't the end of our journey. It's a second starting point. Sin has lost its claim on us, and Jesus has made us holy. Not that we don't recognize our ongoing battle with sin! Daily repentance remains necessary to continue our holy relationship with God.

As we ponder the events of Holy Week, we praise God. He accepts our

repentance—yes, our daily repentance—for Jesus' sake. Once wholly weak, the work of Jesus during Holy Week has transformed our lives. And still weak, we can rejoice nonetheless, for with Paul we can "boast all the more . . . so that Christ's power may rest on" us.

Prayer Thought: Spend more time than usual taking your sins to Jesus. Rejoice and praise more than usual for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Written by Edward Grube, LL.D.
Director of Publications & Communications
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To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil. 4:20)