

## Chapter 4

### Good Friday

*Preparation:* Read Luke 22:66-23:56

In the film *Liar, Liar*, Jim Carrey is a father who, as a result of his son's miraculous birthday wish, finds himself unable to tell a lie. Accustomed to lying quite frequently, he finds himself unable to accept his new inability. There is a scene in which Carrey tries to tell himself that the pen he is holding is blue despite its being clearly black. The scene captures very humorously his unwillingness to accept reality. He refuses to admit the truth to himself that he really can't lie. We see an insight here into our own desperate need to cling to things that hold us down. Despite reality and our own good, we often lie to ourselves and refuse to accept the calling from God to be a part of something bigger than ourselves-the life He calls us to. We choose to stay locked into our own small worlds rather than be caught up into His.

*Entering into Christ's Passion:*

- 1 **Read Luke 23:1-2.** The people here say that Jesus refused to let them give tribute to Caesar. Do you think that this is a surprising statement to come from the mouth of a Jewish person living in Jesus' time? If so, why?

*"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he can't imagine what is meant by an offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."*

☞ **C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory***

- 2 In what ways do we act like the little child Lewis describes in the above passage?
- 3 Do you think Lewis' analogy applies to the people in the crowd wanting to crucify Jesus? What is it about Jesus that they cannot accept?
- 4 What do we have a hard time accepting?

*“I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t need to accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

☞ **C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***

- 5 Are you surprised at the fickleness of the crowd wanting to crucify Jesus? After all, these same people were waving palm branches and proclaiming Him as Messiah just days before.

*The Lamb of God*

Throughout history the church has referred to Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” In fact, St. John in his Gospel and his book of Revelation speaks of Christ in terms of the “Lamb” over and over. Does this seem like an odd image? Why wouldn’t the Church choose a more powerful symbol like the Lion of Judah or a warrior or something that provokes a little more awe? Why a lamb?

- 6 Have you ever heard Jesus referred to as the “Lamb of God?” Have you ever wondered why we call Him this? Why do you think we do?
- 7 **Read Luke 23:3-5.** What kind of significance do you think Pilate’s statement holds for us?
- 8 **Read Luke 23:32-43.** The Church tells us that the first person to enter heaven was the criminal we meet in these verses. Why do you think Jesus chose this man to enter His Kingdom “that very day”?