

**GOD'S WONDERFUL
CONDESCENSION**
(a **GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION**)

Luke 23:33-48

CONDESCENSION

Our word tonight is **“CONDESCENSION.**
“condescension” Merriam-Webster’s
Collegiate Dictionary: “voluntary descent
from one’s rank or dignity in relations with
an inferior.”

“It means to descend or come down from
an exalted rank to an inferior station.”

MUSLIMS' TEACHING

“God is Great” is one of the most significant utterances in Islam and is called the **Takbir**.

Muslims use the phrase **Allah Akbar** in their prayers.

Allah Akbar is written in the center of Iraq's flag.

Allah Akbar is written twenty-two times on the flag of Iran.

Allahu Akbar is the title of Libya's national anthem.

Allah Akbar is shouted by Muslims engaged in Jihad.

Allah Akbar is uttered by Muslims when fasting and while on pilgrimage.

Muslim belief in God's greatness is one of the reasons they do not believe Jesus died on the cross

Christians believe God is so great that His relationship to creation involves some form of condescension. God condescends in order to:

create

communicate to us His Word

hear the prayers and praise of His people

God's condescension does not diminish His glory but manifests it.

Man reason God's greatness is too great to communicate with His creation.

God's greatness would exclude condescension. God demonstrates a greatness that does what we conceive would diminish greatness, condescend to Man.

Psalm 113:4-9

4 The LORD is high above all nations;
His glory is above the heavens. **5 Who is
like the LORD our God,** Who is enthroned
on high, **6 Who humbles Himself** to behold
The things that are in heaven and in the
earth? **7 He raises the poor from the dust
And lifts the needy from the ash heap,** **8 To
make *them* sit with princes,** With the
princes of His people. **9 He makes the
barren woman abide in the house As a
joyful mother of children.**
Praise the LORD!

Christians believe God's exaltedness **is revealed in His condescension.**

Now, His Condescension is actually the result of His love.

God is Loving! And He desires our good. God condescends in order to grant the good for His beloved!

That is how we understand what we read, "For God, so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."

JOHN INTRODUCES JESUS

John 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, **glory as of the only Son from the Father**, full of grace and truth

What it would look like for God to become Man. Human flesh trying to cover up the Glory of God.

In our Holy Communion, we lift up two ingredients that are the essence of His humanity; **His body and His blood**. They symbolize the infinite condescension of God. "Infinite" is not the description of a reality. "Infinite" is an attempt to describe the condescension that God manifested in coming, to become a man. "Yahweh is Great," in His magnificence and almighty glory, He stooped ever so low, to become one of us. We have to change and learn "Greatness" from our God.

VIA DOLOROSA
"The Way of Grief"

- **A Committed Life**
- **With Sorrow and Anguish**
- **The Pain and Humiliation**
- **An Unthinkable Experience**

A COMMITTED LIFE

Lk.9:51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly **set His face to go to Jerusalem,** ⁵² and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because **His face was set** for the journey to Jerusalem.

HIS SORROW AND AGONY

Lk.22:41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and **He knelt** down and *began* to pray, ⁴² saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, **strengthening Him.** ⁴⁴ And **being in agony** He was praying very fervently; and **His sweat** became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

HIS HUMILIATION

Mtt.27:26 Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus **scourged**, he handed Him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and **gathered the whole *Roman* cohort around Him.** ²⁸ They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

MATTHEW 27

²⁹ And after twisting together **a crown of thorns**, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and **mocked Him**, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"³⁰ They **spat on Him**, and took the reed and *began* to **beat Him on the head**.

³¹ After they had mocked Him, they took the *scarlet* robe off Him and put His *own* garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

AN UNTHINKABLE EXPERIENCE

Mtt.27:43 **HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE *Him* now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'**"

45 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. **46** About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a **loud** voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, **MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"**

LUKE 23

⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." **Having said this,** He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he *began* praising God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, *began* to return, **beating their breasts.**

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well,
With my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless
estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well,
With my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious
thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross,

and I bear it no more,

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,

O my soul!

It is well, with my soul,
It is well, it is well,
With my soul.

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O Lord, our God, how can we praise you enough, or worship you enough for being so great? Thank you for your amazing love for us.

**We understand that Your Great
Condescension is motivated by Your
Great Love.**

**Great are You O God,
and Greatly to be Praised**

Let us sing, "Take My Life and Let It.."

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love,
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King,
Always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages for Thee;
Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold,
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be,
Ever, only, all for Thee.
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above Ye Heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.