

**GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 3, 2026**  
**Title: The Cross Deserves a Response**

**Acts 2:36–37**

**“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”**

**When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

When we truly see the cross, our sin, God's love, and Jesus' sacrifice, it demands more than reflection; it calls for a personal, life-changing response.

### **1. The Cross Reveals Our Sin**

Good Friday invites us to slow down and honestly look at the cross—not casually, but deeply. When we do, we realize the cross is not distant or symbolic, it is personal. Jesus suffered and died not randomly, but because of our sin. Like the people in **Acts 2**, when the truth hits our hearts, it pierces us deeply and awakens us.

The cross exposes what we often ignore, showing us, that sin is serious, costly, and something we cannot fix on our own. This moment of conviction is not meant to condemn us, but to bring us to a place of honesty where real change can begin.

### **2. The Cross Reveals God's Love (Shows His Heart)**

At the same time the cross reveals our sin, it also reveals the incredible depth of God's love. Instead of rejecting us, God moved toward us. Jesus willingly gave His life, fully aware of the cost, choosing to suffer so we could be forgiven and restored.

The cross shows us the worst about ourselves, but the very best of God. It is where mercy meets brokenness and grace is poured out without limit. When we truly understand that Jesus did this for us, it becomes impossible to remain unchanged. That kind of love calls us closer, invites us in, and challenges us to trust Him fully.

### **3. The Cross Calls for a Response (Demands Action)**

A true encounter with the cross always leads to a response. Just like the crowd in Acts asked, “What shall we do?”—we must answer that same question today. The response is not just emotional; it is transformational. It is repentance—turning away from sin and surrendering fully to Jesus.

It is choosing to live differently: to love deeply, forgive freely, serve boldly, and pursue God daily. The cross is not about becoming slightly better, it is about becoming more like Christ. When we allow the cross to shape our lives, it changes how we think, how we act, and how we treat others.

## **Closing Challenge**

The cross is not something to admire from a distance, it is something to respond to personally. It confronts us, it loves us, and it calls us. Today, the question remains: "What shall we do?" Don't walk away unchanged. Let the cross pierce your heart, awaken your soul, and lead you into a life of surrender, transformation, and purpose.

The cross is not just a memory; it is a reality that can transform your life today.