**Good Friday**

**The story is told that Steinberg, the artist, struck with the beauty of a gypsy girl, took her to his studio and frequently had her sit for him. At the time he was at his masterpiece, “Christ on the Cross.” The girl used to watch him work on this painting. One day she said to him, “He must have been a very wicked man to be nailed to a cross like that.” “No,” said the painter. “On the contrary, he was a very good man, the best man that ever lived. He died for others.” The little girl looked up at him and asked, “Did he die for you?” Steinberg was not a Christian at the time, but the gypsy girl’s question touched his heart and awakened his conscience and he became a believer in Him whose dying passion he had so well portrayed. *(Eugene A. Hessel)***

**Jesus came as a human “caterpillar”, “cocooned” on a cross, then burst forth to a new life from the tomb! But the reality of Easter goes much deeper than that! The reality goes on to tell us that He has left behind a book entitled “How to be a Fulfilled Caterpillar” (which we have carefully wrapped in a cover with the title “Holy Bible”). (Rev. Richard Stratford)**

**The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. “Lord, I can't go on,” he said. “I have too heavy a cross to bear.” The Lord replied, “My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then open that other door and pick out any cross you wish.” The man was filled with relief. “Thank you, Lord,” he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses. Some were so large the tops were not visible. Then he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. “I'd like that one, Lord,” he whispered. And the Lord replied, “My son, that is the cross you just brought in.” (Contact Magazine)**

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**A window in a New York City jewelry store contained a display of all types of crosses. Underneath stood a sign that read: Easy Terms. (Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 57)**

**Chicago: Two crosses made from lilies for separate Easter flower shows were rearranged into pillars after the American Civil Liberties Union objected that the displays promoted religion on public property. The crosses, part of the annual Spring and Easter Flower Show, were altered after the park department was contacted by an ACLU attorney who contended the crosses were a display of religious symbols on public property. (Denver Post Wire Services)**

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**Easter is so much more than the crossing out of negative thoughts in mind. (Jim Ockley)**

**Charles Fillmore had a lot to say about shell breaking -- he called it the crucifixion experience. In his book Keep A True Lent, Mr. Fillmore explained that, metaphysically, “crucifixion” means the crossing out in consciousness of certain errors that have become fixed states of mind. Letting go of what restricts us frees us to experience the God life within. Crucifixion opens the way for resurrection. Until we let go of worn-out thinking, our consciousness does not have the room or the strength to contain the fullness of the Christ expression that is our divine birthright. Crucifixion is good news because it means resurrection is on the way! *(The Unity World Report)***

**The dark moment the caterpillar calls the end of the world is the sun-filled moment the butterfly calls the beginning. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Dolly: “Does God answer prayers on Good Friday or is this His day off?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Patt Barnes discovered this truth through an old flower lady. She relates that one Easter Sunday morning she noticed the old lady sitting in her usual place inside a small archway. At her feet corsages and boutonnieres were displayed on top of a spread-open newspaper. The flower lady was smiling, her wrinkled old face alive with some inner joy and on impulse Patt said to her, “My, you look happy this morning!” “Why not?” she answered. “Everything is good.” She was dressed so shabbily and seemed so very old that Patt couldn't help saying, “Don't you have any troubles?” “You can't reach my age and not have troubles,” she replied. “Only it's like Jesus and Good Friday. When Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, that was the worst day for the whole world. When I get troubles, I remember that, and then I think of what happened only three days later -- Easter and our Lord arising. So when things go wrong, I've learned to wait three days . . . and somehow everything gets much better.” (Dynamic Preaching)**

**Our greatest cross is our fear of crosses. (St. John Vianney)**

**One of Jesus' last words on the cross are recorded as “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani” (Matthew 27:46), which Dr. George Lamsa says translates from the Aramaic, “My God, My God, for this was I kept.” Jesus certainly could have said, “I don't have to take this!” But, instead, He said, “This is a part of the great purpose of my quest to overcome death itself and prove the principle of the Divinity of Man.” *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover The Power Within You, p. 92)***

**President Lincoln's last day was Good Friday, April 14, 1865. It was only five days after the surrender of Robert E. Lee, and it seemed that the long national nightmare was over. Abraham Lincoln was carried across the street to the home of William Peterson, a tailor, where he clung to life through the night and died the next morning at 7:22 A.M . *(The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, pages 52 and 54)***

**Two school boys were talking about the meaning of Good Friday. The one says to the other: "I think that Good Friday is a wonderful day because Jesus died for our sins and went through so much to make Easter a possibility." The second boy said back to him: "Yes, that it all true, but I think that Good Friday is wonderful because we don't have to go to school." (David J. Seibert, Unity Minister)**

**Mrs. Angelina: “Little Miss! What do you mean by tearing around the house? Don’t you know what day this is? Today is Good Friday. A very sad and solemn day for Catholics! It should be spent in quiet reflection.” Heart: “You’re right, Mrs. Angelina. I’m sorry. I forgot it was Good Friday. That’s why we’re off from school. In fact, that’s why it’s a great Friday!” Mrs. Angelina: “Get your jacket on, Miss, we’re going to church. I want to see the stations of the cross and I think you need to get to confession.” (Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)**

**God refuses to give up, and we who are enlisted to be fellow-workers with God know that the only reason we continue is that death did not have the last word; that Good Friday was not the end of the story. (Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in In God's Hands)**

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