

## Good Friday 2018

He was born and grew up in an obscure village, the child of ordinary people. He worked as a carpenter and an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book, never held an office, never had a wife or children, nor owned a house. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. When He was only 33, His enemies had Him nailed to a cross. His executioners gambled for His clothing. He was laid in a borrowed grave. Yet, after 20 centuries, He is the central figure of the human race. All the kings that ever reigned, all the armies that ever marched, have not affected the human race as much as that one solitary life.

In his book, *Above All*, Brennan Manning reminds us that Jesus could have saved us with the simple wave of His hand and said “All your sins are forgiven.” But would we ever have come to know the depths of God’s love without the slaughtered Son now raised on high? And in *The Signature of Jesus*, by the same author, Manning relates the following story.

It seems a Gentile once came to Rabbi Shammai and said, “Convert me to Judaism on the condition that you can teach me the whole Torah while I am standing on one foot.” With a rod in his hand the rabbi angrily threw him out. Then the man went to Rabbi Hillel and repeated his request. “Convert me to Judaism on the condition that you can teach me the whole Torah while I am standing on one foot.” The rabbi converted him and taught him as follows: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.” This is the whole Torah. All the rest is commentary.

Fr. Joe Robinson reminds us Jesus has done everything possible to make eternal life available to us. But we have to do the job of incorporating Jesus’ saving work into our lives. We can’t leave it in the box and expect it to work. We have to live it each day.

Jesus taught us to love our neighbor, proving His love for us by His death on the cross. If we need to say more, then we’re missing the point, because after all, the rest is commentary. It’s just that simple.