

A Servant's Weekend

I may not always serve the Lord as I would wish too. In fact I quite often find myself serving yours truly. But the last weekend had me at my church for drama, singing, and leading. It started Wednesday night with choir rehearsal when the director announced they were looking for a few people to be a part of a drama for Good Friday. I thought about it and sent an email back saying I could, but for only three of the four services as I had to work for at least part of the day.

The Good Friday service was made up of a few parts, starting with singing and followed by a short announcement. For a half hour then everyone could walk around the worship center (95% of the chairs had been removed) visiting different areas. One area had the text of the last days before the Crucifixion projected on walls for people to read. Another had a giant cross people could sign. There was a section with artwork portraying these days and an area with a looping video about a medical perspective on the Crucifixion. There was also an area with replicas of a Roman flagrum, a spear such as used to pierce the sides of the victims to test for death as they did with Jesus, a crown of thorns, and others. So following this time was another brief message followed by more songs. The drama was during the half-hour tour time. Like everyone who heeded our pastor's wishes, we were dressed in black. We would walk around and at various points break into one of two skits. There were two main characters in one, the scene where Peter denied being a follower of Jesus three times, and one main character in the other, the scene in front of Pilate. The rest of us were people in the crowd whispering or shouting out on cue- "crucify him!" or "yes, he **is** one of them" or similar. The interesting part of the drama was it just happening right in the middle of everyone, and then we would be done, fading back into the wave of people- and boy, were

there a lot of people, especially during the final service. One could barely move at times.

So Friday I was there from about 3:30 to about 8:00. Then Saturday, I had to be back again at 1:00 for choir rehearsal, dressed and ready to sing. We warmed up on our own then joined the worship band in the worship center, put back together from the day before. I tell you, we sang for what had to be two straight hours on the entire worship package including our three songs and the five that the congregation sang together. Since the majority of the guys sang tenor, I decided to sing bass. Okay, let me not kid myself. Some of that music, if it could talk would say, "first tenors only-second tenors need not apply." Following rehearsal we had a short break before lining up for the real deal. I took this time to visit the 4th and 5th grade room. I talked to some of the other leaders and kids before I had to go. I would miss their worship time and craft time where they made crosses out of nails, but would be back during teaching time. The singing went well, and so did the 4th and 5th grade small group time. The teaching went well too, but it wasn't me teaching. In fact, due to choir I relinquished my own Sunday teaching time to someone else. Following two choir times, who knew how my voice would be?

Sunday we had to be back at 7AM, when we tried to watch a video from the night before. It was either a bad disc or a bad player, but most of the video was a rapid, silent fast-forward. Oh, well- that's technology for you. We had a short warmup and practiced a few of the songs, but not the entire set this time. We performed, then breakfast was waiting for us. Ahh... There's the real reason I serve. Kidding aside (we did have to donate for the food if we were able!) both Sunday services went great as well. I was back in the 4th and 5th

grade room after the second service where we ended up merging 4th grade small groups which was fine.

I went right to lunch from there, meeting my brother, nephew, mother, grandmother, and uncle for an Easter lunch (not brunch). We ate, we chatted and bantered, and afterward we went to my house for some pie and chatted and bantered some more. I'm tired of typing so I'll skip the detail here. As a bonus though, here are links to videos of most of the songs we did including the video shown at the start of our service with us singing. I couldn't include one song because it is an original from the musicians at my church and no one has made a youtube video with it. Most of these are not us, just videos pulled from youtube. Most. Oh, and let me wrap up with this- in case you did not return to the comments of my last post, I mentioned that I updated some of the pictures by adding larger versions, so check them out- it may be easier to ID me now. ☐

So anyway, the videos:

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