

Sacrifice of the Son (4)

Crucifixion (part 2)

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Introduction

- When Jesus went on trial before the Jews and Romans, He was:
 - Mocked
 - Abused
 - Tortured
 - Then crucified
- Have you ever imagined what it would have been like to personally witness these events
 - How unbelievably sad
 - How utterly terrifying
 - How overwhelmingly evil – dark
- Darkness covered the land for three hours (Mt. 27:45)
 - Noon – 3 PM
 - Symbolic of the events at hand

“My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:45-49)

- Most difficult to understand of Jesus sayings on the cross
- From Psalm 22
 - David expressed grief over suffering (Psa. 22:6-8, 12-18)
 - Acknowledged God’s care through life (Psa. 22:9-11)
 - Confidence in deliverance (Psa. 22:3-5, 19-24)
 - Jesus on the cross expressed similar grief, but we must see it is infused with faith
 - Angels comforted Him in the wilderness (Mt. 4:11)
 - Angels strengthened Him in the garden (Lk. 22:43)
 - No angels, no comfort, no strengthening on the cross
 - Allowed to suffer to the fullest extent
 - Did not buffer the Lord’s sorrow & pain

“I Thirst” (Jn. 19:28, 29; cf. Psa. 69:21)

- Prophecy fulfilled to the minor detail
- Highlight of physical torture
 - Body abused, in terrible condition (Psa. 22:14, 15)
 - Scourged, slapped, exhausted: had not slept since previous day

“It Is Finished” (Jn. 19:30)

- An expression of accomplishment
 - This “is not the gasp of a worn-out life, but the deliberate utterance of a clear consciousness that His work was finished, and all God’s purpose accomplished (xvii. 4), that all had now been done that could be done to make God known to men, and to identify Him with men” (*The Expositors Greek Testament*, 859).
 - Jesus was now experiencing the fullness of the purpose of His advent
 - From birth in a manger, to His travels & teaching in Galilee
 - From miracles on the sea & by the sea, to His conflict with Jewish leaders and comfort of the common man
 - Everything was preparatory to this single moment, the moment He would yield up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of man – yours and mine

“Father, Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit” (Lk. 23:46)

- Shows His complete trust in the Father
 - At time of death
 - Entering Hades (Acts 2:27)
- The Son of God gave His life (Jn. 19:30; Gal. 2:20)
 - Voluntary death (Jn. 10:17, 18)
 - Not forced or coerced
 - Nails did not keep Him on the cross
 - Weakness did not keep Him there
 - In this He set the example of complete devotion, giving His last full measure

A Shock Wave Followed The Death of Christ (Matt. 27:50-56)

- Such a powerful event in the spiritual realm was echoed in the physical
 - Religious
 - Veil of temple torn top to bottom
 - Way to God now open
 - Old Law torn away
 - Physical
 - Earthquake, graves opened
 - Later resurrection of saints
 - Fate: like any others resurrected from the dead
 - Political
 - Centurion confessed Jesus as the Son of God
 - Eventual downfall of the Roman Empire
 - Persecuted Christians
 - God avenged: Revelation
- Many wept (Lk. 23:48)

- Women stood afar off (Matt. 27:55, 56)
 - Eyewitnesses to His death

Christ's Death Verified (Jn. 19:31-37)

- Jews wanted the bodies taken down (Jn. 19:31)
 - To not defile the land (Deut. 21:22, 23)
 - High Day: double Sabbath
 - Saturday: regular Sabbath
 - 1st day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread: Sabbath (Ex. 12:16)
- Legs of others broken (Jn. 19:32)
 - Prevent from getting breath
 - Suffocate quickly
- Jesus already dead
 - Side pierced
 - Blood & water
 - Heart stopped
 - No circulation of blood
 - John witnessed
- Scripture fulfilled
 - No bones broken (Psa. 34:20)
 - Look on Him whom they pierced (Zech. 12:10)

Burial

- Jesus' body was prepared & laid to rest
 - Joseph (Mk. 15:42-47)
 - Nicodemus (Jn. 19:38-42)
 - Buried with the rich and wicked (Isa. 53:9)
 - An honorable burial
 - Body of crucified usually thrown in a dump (or left to rot)
- Jews had a guard set (Matt. 27:62-66)

Conclusion

- He was mocked, abused, and tortured for you and me
- It was literally the darkest hour in human history, but also the event on which all history hinges
 - The event that opened the way to God
 - The event that makes salvation possible
- Won't you allow the sacrifice of the Son to move you?
 - To appreciation for His love
 - To submission to His will