

Mark 15:22-33 (NIV)

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews.

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ^[28] ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**”).

1. Last time, we looked at
 - a. The Savior in the palace
 - b. The Cyrenian who carried His Cross

2. Jesus is led out of the city to a place called Golgotha
 - a. Golgotha– Hebrew
 - b. Calvary– Greek

- c. [Historians tell us that] Golgotha is a place outside the city where the stones were quarried
 - i. There, the stone which the builders rejected became the chief cornerstone (**Courson**)
- d. At Calvary we'll consider the following:

- I. The Crowd**
- II. The Cry**
- III. The Council member**

We'll take it slow to absorb the scenery

Like stopping to take in the view on the road

I. The Crowd

1. The crowd consisted of (soldiers, religious elite, 2 thieves)

a. The soldiers

i. They offered Him wine mixed with myrrh but He did not take it

- 1. This is one of the rare humane acts that the Romans allowed
- 2. To help numb some of the pain
- 3. This shows the extreme agony He felt **before** being suspended between heaven and earth

4. He refused it

5. He willingly suffered the full measure of the torment of crucifixion (**Sproul**)
6. He wanted to be in full possession of His faculties as He did the Father's will and accomplished the work of redemption (**Wiersbe**)
7. Jesus knew the Father gave Him a full cup to drink
 - a. Trusting that God would sustain Him, he didn't manipulate the situation
 - b. He didn't add to or take away from it
 - c. If God allows you a full cup to drink from, drink it without manipulation
 - d. Don't gratify the flesh with indulgences

ii. They crucified Him...

1. None of the writers give us a description of crucifixion
 - a. Their aim is not to arouse our pity but to assure our faith
 - b. Many of their readers ... probably witnessed crucifixions, so any details would have been unnecessary (**Wiersbe**)
2. But we've never seen it
 - a. 7-9' nails driven into the wrists & feet
 - b. Every breath was painful

3. The Roman statesman Cicero said: "It is a crime to bind a Roman citizen; to scourge him is an act of wickedness; to execute him is almost murder: What shall I say of crucifying him? An act so abominable it is impossible to find any word adequately to express." The Roman historian Tacitus described crucifixion as "a torture fit only for slaves." (**Guzik**)
 - a. It's enough for us to know that crucifixion was one of the worst forms of death devised by man

iii. They divided his garments by casing lots

1. Prophecy was being fulfilled
 - a. Isaiah 53:12 – He is counted with the transgressors
 - b. Psalm 22 - they pierced my hands and feet
 - c. Psalm 22 – for my clothing, they cast lots
2. Rolling dice: People were playing games while Jesus paid the price
 - a. Although we may not understand or even care what God may be doing, He is faithful to complete His perfect plan
 - i. We'll see later how one of those soldiers recognized His divinity

b. The mocking religious elite

- i. They're mocking the king of Glory

ii. They taunt Him with shameful hateful words

1. "Aha, You who destroy the temple and built it in three days, save Yourself and come down from the cross"
2. He saved others, but He cannot save Himself
3. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross that we may see and believe
4. How painful are the lashing words that wound more than the physical blows
5. Especially as they find boldness in their numbers and continue to taunt Him
 - a. Those that should have understood the scriptures are leading the charge
 - b. It's so easy to jump on the bandwagon and crucify others with our words
 - i. Especially if we're in a group
 - ii. To mock others when they are different than us or have fallen
6. Jesus is perfect and certainly had no sin
7. He's not fooled by their positions
 - a. He can see what's inside of man's heart

b. God can see what's in your heart right now

i. He remains absolutely silent

ii. Some mistake the silence of God as His approval

iii. He could have saved Himself easily, but none of us would have been saved

iv. He opens not His mouth

8. **1 Pet 2:23** He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

c. The 2 thieves

i. Both thieves initially mocked Jesus also

ii. One of them believed while on the Cross

1. We don't know how or why, but he did

2. We don't know what he saw but his eyes were opened to something

3. It was more than the physical because Jesus was marred beyond recognition

4. Perhaps it began when he noticed a great calm in Jesus

a. Maybe His humility that did not revile back

- b. Perhaps it was the prayer Jesus offered to forgive his persecutors who did not know what they did
- c. He's known as the Son of David
 - i. David did not pray like this for his accusers
 - ii. Elijah would not have prayed like this
- d. Perhaps it was the inscription "King of the Jews" in 3 languages
 - i. Could this be the King?
 - ii. The miracle worker?
 - iii. The One who has power over demons?
 - iv. The One who feeds the hungry and forgives sinners?
 - v. The One who raises the dead?
- iii. Something caught his attention and it was at his final hour
- iv. I have to commend this dying thief next to Jesus
 - 1. He was willing to stand alone and make his public confession
 - 2. As he turned to the savior and heard these words

a. Today, you will be with me in Paradise

b. Is it that easy?

c. **Isaiah 45:22** "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

v. I wonder about the other thief

1. His heart never moved?

2. Wasn't he curious about this mercy extended?

3. What does he have to lose by crying out to Jesus?

a. He knows he's a sinner and he knows he's going to hell

b. Lift up your voice to Him now and say, "me too Lord, remember me as well"

c. He would have been in heaven also

4. There is something in the heart of people that keeps them from putting their full trust in Jesus

5. With Christ, you have everything to gain and hell to lose

6. Put your trust in Him today

2. Vs. 33 Darkness at noon for 3 hours (12 till 3)

- a. As his body is racked with pain he is still able to cause the Sun to hide its face as darkness covers the land for 3 hours.
- b. To the spectators, it may seem like he's lost control, but He's the LORD of the universe
 - i. **Amos 8:9** and it shall come to pass in that day says the Lord God that I will make the Sun go down at noon and I will darken the earth in broad daylight
- c. If he can do this in his weakness, what is he able to do in his strength? (**Spurgeon**)
- d. 3 hours are reminiscent of the 3 days of darkness over Egypt right before the Passover Lamb is slain
 - i. The 9th plague was absolute darkness that could be felt
 - ii. Because Pharaoh's heart was so hard, he needed something tangible
 - iii. This is a picture of a nation and people whose hearts have grown so hard and cold toward God
 - iv. God is drawing their attention with the darkness and toward the Passover Lamb
 - v. People groped around at noonday. Every Valley and every hill in Jerusalem was dark and it was known as midday midnight and Jerusalem became a city by night only men were not in their beds (**Spurgeon**)
 - vi. **Luke 23:44** and there was darkness over all the earth...

- vii. This gruesome darkness was only fitting as the mockers of Jesus were forced into silence.
- viii. It is fitting for us to pause and ponder what is darkness meant for out of the darkness comes a great light
- e. [It's also a picture] where a dark veil is placed at the Cross where every sin and act of rebellion against God has now been placed on the body of Jesus on the cross no longer can it be seen because of the thick darkness (**Spurgeon**)
 - i. We no longer see our sins as they are placed on Jesus and the scene is dark with a thick tangible darkness
 - 1. This is good news
 - 2. **Is 44:22** I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and, as a cloud, your sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed you
 - ii. Every sin you've committed is now under the cloud of judgment placed on Jesus
 - iii. The innocent is judged guilty and the guilty is judged innocent
 - 1. This is good news for those who realize their sin before a Holy God
- f. **Also, if you're going through a tough time and things seem dark**

- i. Take hope as our Lord Himself was there in the dark
- ii. If our sins bring grief and misery, don't give up hope
- iii. If the situation looks grim and hopeless:
 - 1. Others were in similar darkness and God brought them out
 - 2. I.e. David who loved God but his circumstances were terrible
 - 3. He was able to lift his eyes by faith and declare
 - a. **"The LORD is my light..."**
- g. If you are under a thick cloud and things seem hopeless
 - i. 3 hours of darkness can seem like an eternity
 - ii. Stand still and say "Your cross (LORD Jesus) once stood in darkness as this; Help me Lord"
 - iii. "You understand the darkness and silence & pain"
 - iv. God is faithful and will show up right on time to stop the storm