

Title: THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST (The people who mocked him) (Part II)

Text: Mark 15:22-41 (vs 29-41)

Red vs 24-39

Prayer

1B The Place of the Cross

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(2B) As we look at the crucifixion of Jesus, I want to ^{notice} look at the people who mocked him.

(1C) First of all, the Bible says that all those who passed by were mocking him. Vs 29 says "And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, 'Ha! You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (which by the way he never said. It was a ^{false} claim) save yourself, and come down from the cross.'"

I don't know how the people did this. But again if we had been there would we have been any different? The crowds of people that came by Jesus. Most folks would stay away from a crucifixion. They really didn't want to see it. But, on this occasion people keep passing by. And the crowds and the multitude ^{were} ~~was~~ out there.

Of course it was an unusually thing because everyone knew or had heard of Jesus. The man from Galilee. The one who had done all those miracles. And ~~how~~ the multitudes of people followed him.

(2C) We also have the words found in Mark 15 verse 32 that "those ^{who} were crucified with him were also mocking him."

And I find this very interesting / in light of Luke 23. Would you turn in your Bibles, please, to Luke 23. Looking at the thieves ^{who} ~~now~~ were mocking him, Mark tells us that both thieves were mocking Christ. ^{Became} ~~Now~~, we know that one of the thieves got right with God. But at first he was also insulting ~~him~~ ^{Jesus}. But something changed his mind and his heart. And that something could only be a sovereign God. The Holy Spirit of God began to work on his heart.

In Luke 23 we read in verse 39 that "one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, 'Are you ~~not~~ ^{not} the Christ? Save yourself and us!'" "But the other answered, rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God." Now remember, at first he also mocked Christ. But now his heart is changed... (Vs 40... (READ Vs 40-43) ^{omit}

"Remember me when you come into your kingdom"

"Today, you shall be with me in Paradise"

Now, a lot of people wander about the statement "IN Paradise."
In 2 Corinthians chapter 12 Paul says that he knew a man, probable referring to himself, who was caught up to the third heaven and he says in a parallell ~~verse~~ verse that he was caught up to Paradise.

^{Note} However, in O.T. ~~theology~~ Paradise was Abraham's bosom. Paradise that was in the garden of Eden is, also, going to be in the new Jerselem. ^{SS} And in the view of the Jews that which was in the garden of Eden ^{before} after the fall into sin is now in Abraham's bosom. That is, everyone who is righteous and ~~deid~~ ^{deid} would go to be with faither Abraham. or Paradise

And there was a great gulf that existed between believer and unbeliever. The believers are in Paradise. The unbelievers in judgement and torment.

We know that Jesus gave us a parable about the rich man and Lazarath. The rich man being in Hades, in torment. And Lazarth being in Abrahams bosom.

According to Jesus he said, "Today you shall be with me in Paradise." Not in heaven but in Paradise.

Now, I believe, based upon two passages....Romans chapter 10 and Ephesian chapter 4....that Jesus, literally, desended, between the time of the cross and the resurrection, he desended into the lower parts of the earth, according to Ephesians 4, and he took captive O.T. believers, and took them to heaven. And the symbolic issue of the fact that O.T. believers had been set free was what ^{is} recorded in Matthew 27...The Bible says that the tombs were opened.

When the vale of the Temple was torn down the center and O.T. believers got out of those tombs...resurrected...and started walking abound in Jerselam.

DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?...It is recorded in the Bible. And I believe that was the symbolic act on the part of God to prove to all the Jews who were believers that the O.T. believers had been set free. Jesus took them to heaven.

And if it had been after the resurrection, Jesus would have said to the Theief...~~THEIEF... "TODAY THY SHALL BE WITH ME"~~ "OTDA "TODAY THY SHALL BE WITH ME"....Absent from the body...Present with the Lord.

Paradise was changed in location. From Abraham's bosom to heaven. And Paul speaks of it being changed in 2 Corinthians 12 when he calls it the third heaven where God dwells as being Paradise.

() Well, let's come back to ~~Mark 15~~ our story. The soldiers also mocked Jesus. Look at Luke 23:verse 36-37.....(READ Vs 36-37)

The same soldiers who beat and scourged Jesus. Now, they mock him.

(30) But, they were not the only ones. The chief priests and the elders and the scribes were involved. ~~Come back to~~ Mark 15 and notice vs 31..... It says "In the same way the chief priests along with the scribes were also mocking Him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; He cannot save himself. Let this Christ, the king of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!'"

You know, that is ridiculous. If Jesus had come down from the cross, they wouldn't have believed. NOT AT ALL.

"He can't even save himself. Why doesn't he come down from the cross." Do you realize that all the time this is going on, that the precious Lord Jesus, ^{the} love, is staying on that cross knowing that he is paying for our sins. If He had come off that cross, there would be no salvation. He came into the world to die. He was born to die. "The son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." He had to die in order to make our salvation possible.

(31) ^{Now} THAT BRINGS US TO WHAT I CONSIDER TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. And that is the power of his death. THE POWER OF HIS DEATH. And I would like you to see this in several ways.

~~Now~~ Beginning at Verse 33 we are told that when the sixth hour hit, which would be high noon. When the sun is the brightest and the hottest. "Darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour." ^{So it was} For three hours while Jesus is on the cross. And I believe the whole power of the death of Jesus is being pictured, here, in these last three verses.

(10) One, deals with the revelation of darkness. This is very unusually to say the least. Total darkness over the whole land. People knew that something usually had happened.

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This Darkness

For three hours ~~it~~ lasted. And I believe the answer is because Jesus was bearing the sins of the whole world. The darkness pictures SIN.

I John 1:5 says "that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all." "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."

The power of his death over sin was being pictured by the very darkness that was there for three hours.

(2 c) And secondly, one of the most unusally things of all was His relationship to His heavenly Father on that cross. Look at Vs 34...It says, "on the ninth hour (that is three o'clock in the afternoon) Jesus ~~cried~~ cried out with a loud voice, "ELOI, ELOI, ^{LINA} ~~SAPACH-THANI~~ ^{BACK}" which is translated, "My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me?"

And a lot of people look at this and say, "now, wait a minute." "HOW COULD JESUS BE GOD, AND THE FATHER BE GOD. AND JESUS PRAYED TO THE FATHER AND SAID, MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME."

That is a tough problem. There is no question about that. It really is a tough problem. WHY WAS JESUS BEING FORSAKEN?

There is really only one answer to that question. And that is because he was bearing the sin of the whole world. At this point, it is my belief... that Jesus experienced "spiritual death." *For you and for me*

Now, he also died "physically". Jesus experienced both kinds of death. Spiritual and physical...And at this point when he was separated from His heavenly Father, he experienced spiritual death.

Now, let me show you why I believe that. In Isaiah 59 verses 1 and 2 says that "the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is his ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God so that He does not hear."

We know that SIN, even though you are physically alive, separates you from God. Ephesians 2:1 says that "we were dead in trespasses and sins" before the Holy Spirit made us alive.

So, you are separated spiritually from God because of sin even though you maybe physically alive.

And that is why you and I must solve that problem before we die, physically. We must solve the problem of spiritual death.

When Jesus said, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" he was experiencing spiritual death. Bearing all the sins of the whole world, upon him, at that moment. He was separated from his heavenly Father.

You say, "I don't understand that. How can God be separated from God? Well, here is a tougher one. How Can the Father ever be separated from the Son when they are both Om-en present. It is a tough problem.

But God localized himself, God the son, in a human body on the cross. And in that sense, Yes, separation. And in a spiritual sense of bearing our sins. He didn't stop being God, and God doesn't die, by the way.

God was in Christ as it says in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, reconciling the world unto himself. INTERESTING....GOD...IN...CHRIST...RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF.

But, separation occurred.....Spiritual death occurred...He died for our sins. This is fulfillment of Psalms 22:1 that speaks these words that the Messiah would say, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me."

He who knew no sin, says 2 Corinthians 5:21 was made to be sin for us. In Galatians 3:13 it says that "christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us."

I don't know what Jesus went through. I cannot even imagine what he went through at that moment. But I do know this that every sin that I have ever committed ...HE PAID THE FULL PRICE OF THE RIGHTEOUS WRATH GOD AGAINST SIN ON THAT CROSS WHEN HE DIED.

Every thing that could possible be imagined in the way of God 's wrath against sin....JESUS PAID FOR.

The Bible says that all the wrath of God was laid on Him. That is a tremendous statement when you think of God's anger and wrath in the O.T. as it was displayed. It was all laid on Jesus Christ in that one moment when he died on the cross.

(3C) A third thing deals with the remarks at the last which I believe picture the power of his death.

In John 19:30 the Bible records that He said, "IT..IS..FINISHED." And in that one simple statement you have a remarkable doctrine. At that point in human history, everything that was God's plan of salvation came to halt and completion. IT WAS DONE...FINISHED...PAID FOR....

By the way, that is why I believe that spiritual death occurred before physical death. Before Christ died, physically, he said, IT IS FINISHED... I believe he had already paid for sin and suffered spiritual death for you and for me. IT IS DONE.. *IT is finished*

You talk about the power of his death. You know, dear friends, you cannot add anything to that.

Alot of folks think that when you become a christian, it is Christ in what he did, and now is me in what I do. But, that is false thinking. It is Christ and Christ alone.

It is faith in what He did at the cross that brings salvation to my life. You cannot add anything to it. It is done...It is finished. The way...the means of salvation has been provided. It is complete.

And dear friends, I believe that is what made the centurian respond... when he said, "Truly this was the son of God."

(40) There is ^{any} other thing that deminstrates the power of ~~his~~ his death and that is the tearing of the veil. In Mark 15: 37 it says Jesus "breathed His last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

Now, I want to remind you that this happened at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon. You say, "Why is that important."

Because this is the day of passover. And sacrifices are going on. And the Priest are there exercising their ministry. Can you imagine what they thought in that temple area as that veil of the temple....was torn in two? The veil kept the people from the presence of God. Only the high priest could go behind the veil into the holy of holies. Can you imagine what they thought when that veil was torn in two? Man! they were probably scared to death.

Let's turn to the book of Hebrews to find out what that means. The book of Hebrews chapter 10. This is a wonderful passage.

You know, dear friends, behind that veil is the Holy of Holies. It is where the presence of God would come down when the Priest entered with the sacrifice. It was a sign of being in God's presence. And all the people were outside of God's presence. And they needed Priests to go in to God's presence. To talk to God in their behalf. And the priests would then come out and interceded for the people. When you remember that, and then realize that the veil was torn. So that you and I could go directly into the very presence of God. We ~~we~~ speak so lightly of Prayer, dear friends, But prayer is a wonderful doctrine.

Prayer teaches the private priesthood of the believer. That you and I do not have to go to someone else. We don't have to ask others to pray for us. We can go directly to God with all of our concerns.

Hebrews 10 tells us that things have changed since Christ died. Vs 19...says..."Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is what?.....WHAT DOES IT SAY?.....

"HIS FLESH".....What a fantastic thing. The veil, therefore, was a type of the flesh of Jesus Christ that was torn for us at the cross.

~~And then it goes on to say..."And since we have a great priest (namely, Jesus) over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."~~

~~Hebrews 10:1-10... Last part of message... The Sacrifice of Christ~~

And it ^{goes on to say vs 21} says, "since we have ^a ~~the~~ great priest over the house of God, (namely Jesus,) let us draw near with a sincere heart in ~~full~~ assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our ~~body~~ bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession ^{our} hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

What a fantastic text! You and I can go directly into the presence of God. Hebrews 4:16 says "Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

I don't know how you read that? But to me it simply means one thing: that God never gets tired of me saying "Help"...under any circumstances.

Romans 5:1 says "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into his grace in which we stand."

We can go into the very presence of our Lord Jesus.

(50) And one ^{final} other thing ^{most demerit at the power of death's} The responses of that Centurion. I love this.

~~Vs 39~~...Mark 15 verse 39. That centurion who was part of that ~~scragging~~ ^{group} who lead Jesus out to the cross, who is managing the crowds and ordering people around, that centurion hears what Jesus says in that last ~~cry~~ cry and this is what it says. Vs 39.. "When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

This is fantastic. A Roman soldier who probably gave some of the orders concerning the beating and scragging of ~~cross~~ christ.

[Handwritten signature]

In Luke 23:47 it says that "he praised God and said, 'certainly this man was innocent.'" ~~But why would he say that?~~

Now, what was it that caused him to say that? Some say, that the reason was that this centurion who knew crucifixions so well, knew that the average person who was crucified breathed out such hostilities and anger against those who had done it to them. And yet, Jesus said, nothing. He endured it all. And He even said on the cross as you all know so well, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

This centurion said, "Surely this man is innocent. Truly this man was the son of God."

Praise the Lord. I expect to see that centurion in heaven. Don't you? I believe he got saved when he saw Jesus on the cross.

And I trust that you will get saved today.....