

“THE PLACE CALLED CALVARY”

Text: Luke 23, 32, 33,

Subject: What Happened At The Place Called Calvary?

Introduction

(Is there any more moving Scripture anywhere in the Bible than Luke 23:33?)

“And when they were come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Jesus.”

Question: Who was crucified?

Answer: Jesus, the Son of God!

Question: Where was Jesus crucified?

Answer: On a hill called “the skull” (in Latin, CALVARIA – where we get the name Calvary)

Question: Whose idea was the crucifixion?

Answer: It was God’s idea in Isaiah 53:10

“It pleased the Father to bruise the Son, He has put him to grief and made His soul an offering for sin.”

(Remember Beloved)

- Calvary was not an afterthought of God!
- Calvary was the plan conceived by God in eternity past!
- Calvary was foreordained where God’s Son should die as the Savior of the world.

(Revelation 13:8)

“The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

(In other words)

Fact: As the Passover lamb was “**foreordained**” several days before it was killed (Exodus 12:3, 6)

Fact: So, Christ, our Passover Lamb was “**foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you.**” (1 Peter 1:20)

Question: Was Christ’s sacrifice really promised before the world was created?

Answer: Titus 1:2 says, “*In hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, **promised before the world began.**”*

(And Ephesians 1:4)

“According as God has chosen a body of people sanctified by Christ’s sacrifice, **before the foundation of the world.**”

(In other words)

- Calvary did not usher in a new religion some 2,000 years ago.
- Calvary is simply the historical manifestation of the eternal purpose of God.

(The question is)

- What happened at the place called Calvary?

I. At Calvary – Jesus Absorbed The Wrath Of God Upon Himself!

(Read Galatians 3:13)

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written, cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

Question: How did Jesus absorb the wrath of God we deserved?

Answer: Verse 13: *“Christ became a curse for us.”* **(Which means)**

1. If God were not just, there would be no demand for His son to die.
2. If God were not loving, there would be no willingness for His son to die.

(In other words)

“All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

(Which means)

- ◆ God is just and cannot sweep our sin under the rug of the universe.
- ◆ Consequently, sin deserves punishment – because not to punish sin would be unjust.
- ◆ So, a holy curse hangs over sin and sinful man.

Question: And what does God do?

Answer: Because of His love, He cannot rest with the curse that hangs over all.

Question: So what does God do to satisfy His wrath against sin, so He can maintain His justice?

Answer: (Galatians 3:13) He sends His own Son to absorb His wrath (and bear the curse for anyone who trusts him).

(Which means)

1. Jesus was made a curse for us when all of our sins were laid on Him.
2. Jesus was made a curse for us, when He paid the penalty that we deserve.
3. Jesus was made a curse for us, when God accepted His righteous sacrifice as our substitute for sin.
4. Jesus was made a curse for us, when God cursed all of our sin in Jesus, and planned the sacrifice at Calvary.

(In other words)

- Those who believe in this truth (and accept it) have no more curse upon them!

(In other words)

- You may have been a liar, a thief, a drunkard, a cusser, an adulterer, a murderer, a hell raiser.

(But guess what?)

- When a person becomes **“in Christ”** God sees them as innocent,
- God sees you as **pure**, as **sinless**, as **forgiven! Why?**
- Because God punished your sin (**in Christ**) when He died on a cross!!!

Question: How many of you are grateful that Jesus satisfied God’s just demand for sin?

1. He was willing to give up all to redeem us.
2. He, being Divine, was able to pay the required price (with His own sinless blood).

II. At Calvary – Jesus Justifies Us Before A Holy God!

(Romans 5:9) *“Much more than, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*

Question: What does it mean to be “justified”?

Answer: To be justified is a legal act; the act of declaring someone to be just.

- Whereas sanctification is a process,
- Justification is an instantaneous verdict from God that now pronounces you righteous.

(In other words)

- None of us have kept the law of God, or can declare ourselves innocent

Question: So how do we become just and justified?

Answer: (Romans 4:5) (all read)

“But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

Question: What is the good news here?

Answer: That God justifies the ungodly!

Question: What gives God the legal right (in the high court of heaven) to justify the ungodly?

Answer: Two things all healthy believers understand:

1. God can justify the ungodly because Jesus shed His blood to cancel the guilt of our crimes.

(Romans 5:9)

“We have now been justified by His blood.”

2. God can justify the ungodly because the righteousness of Jesus’ perfect sacrifice has been imputed to us.

(Which means)

- Christ fulfilled the law perfectly!
- God looked at Christ’s perfect sacrifice!
- When I trust Jesus, His righteousness becomes my righteousness.
- So now God declares us to be righteous with the righteousness of His Son.

Question: How do we obtain this glorious righteousness and right standing?

(Philippians 3:9)

“Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but that which comes through faith in Christ.”

Question: How do you become just before God with a perfectly righteous standing?

Answer: Philippians 3:9 ***“That which comes through faith in Christ.”***

(In other words)

- Christ’s death is the basis of our pardon.

- Christ's death is the basis of our perfection.
- Christ's death is the basis of our righteousness.
- Christ's death is the basis of our justification

(In other words)

- Since Christ alone is our righteousness, when we put our faith in Him, His righteousness becomes our righteousness.

(And the result is)

- God can legally justify we who were once considered ungodly and unworthy.

III. At Calvary – Jesus Pays A Debt We Could Not Pay!

Question: How many of you have ever sinned?

Question: How many of you know why we can't pay for our own sin?

Question: How many of you know that God is holy, we are sinful and our iniquities have separated us from God?

Illustration

- Genesis 3 describes the debt we cannot pay.
- Our first parents sinned and became conscious of a naked conscience (in the Garden).
- They tried to cover themselves with leaves and excuses.

Question: Could Adam and Eve pay their debt for their sin? (No)

Question: What did God have to do?

Answer: God took the skins from an animal sacrifice to cover the sinners.

- Jehovah made provision for man's redemption.
- The innocent creature died to cover the guilty.
- It's a type (or shadow) of Jesus – where a sacrifice is made to cover the conscience of the guilty.

(This is Jesus at Calvary)

- He paid the debt we could not pay, and blotted out the past that we could not undo.

(II Corinthians 5:21 states)

- *“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

(I Peter 2:24 states)

- *“Who His own self, bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.”*

(Hebrews 9:28 states)

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many.”

Question: How many of you are grateful that Jesus was crucified to pay the debt we could not pay?

(Read Acts 13:38)

“Be it known unto you therefore brethren that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.”

(Read I John 1:9)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Question: What is forgiveness?

Answer: Forgiveness is not getting even!

◆ If you injure me, instead of suing you, I forgive you.

(In other words)

- ◆ Grace allows you to give what someone doesn't deserve.
- ◆ That's why **“forgiveness”** has the word “give” in it.
- ◆ Forgiveness is not “getting even”, it is giving away the right to get even.

(This is what Jesus does)

◆ When we believe in Jesus, God no longer holds our sins against us.

IV. At Calvary – Jesus Conquers The Lie Of Condemnation!

(Read Hebrews 10:14)

“For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

(Read Colossians 1:22)

“In the body of His flesh through His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.”

Question: What does it mean to be blameless, holy and perfected for all time?

Answer: It's the good news for all to know.

(When a person gets saved)

1. God counts the sacrifice of Jesus against your sin.
2. God counts you then as being free from all guilt.
3. God counts you then as being perfect and free from sin in the eyes of God.

Question: What's our dilemma?

Answer: We all know that we are dealing with imperfections in our lives.

- We are becoming holy, but are not yet fully holy.
- We are becoming godly, but are not yet fully godly.
- We are becoming sanctified, but are not yet fully sanctified.

(What's the good news?)

Hebrews 10:14; *“For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”*

(In other words)

- #1. We are being **“sanctified”** and
- #2. We are already **“perfected”** (both at the same time).

(In other words)

- ◆ We are imperfect and in process, we are also perfected in our standing before God.

(In other words)

- ◆ One of the greatest joys of Christian living is knowing that in the imperfection of our progress, we have already been perfected. **(How?)**
- ◆ The suffering and death of Christ at Calvary!

(Read Romans 8:34)

“Who is He that condemns you? It is Christ Jesus who has died and is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

(Read Romans 8:1)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Question: What does it mean to be free from condemnation?

Answer: The words “no condemnation” (OUDEN KATAKRIMA) mean:

- ◆ The believer is not doomed or damned (but)
- ◆ The believer is freed from the penalty of sin.

Question: How did this happen?

Answer: Romans 8:34; *“Who is He that condemns you? It is Christ Jesus who has died and is risen again.”*

(In other words)

- ◆ The death of Jesus secures your freedom from condemnation.

(In other words)

- ◆ It is as certain that you cannot be condemned as it is certain that Jesus died.

(In simple and clear theology)

- ◆ There is no double jeopardy in God’s court of law.
- ◆ There is no condemning twice for the same offenses.
- ◆ So if Christ died once for your sins, you cannot be condemned for them. **(Why not?)**
- ◆ Because the condemnation already occurred when Jesus died.
- ◆ If Jesus didn’t die and pay sin’s penalty, then keep walking through life feeling guilty!

(But since Jesus did die and rise again)

- ◆ The high court of heaven has ruled in your favor.

(So much so that God says in Romans 8:33)

“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”

(And in Romans 8:31)

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

V. At Calvary – Jesus Frees Us From The Chains Of Our Past!
(Read I Peter 1:18, 19)

“You have been ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

Question: Why did Jesus die?

Answer: “To ransom us from the futile ways inherited from our forefathers.”

Question: What does it mean to ransom?

Answer: It means **“to free by the paying of a price.”**

Question: What’s the price?

Answer: The blood of Christ!

Question: Why the blood of Calvary on your behalf and mine?

Answer: Verse 18: *“To free us from the futile ways we inherited from our forefathers.”*

Question: What is the futile way we inherited from our forefathers?

Answer: This refers to an empty, vain and meaningless way of living that doesn’t satisfy and ends in destruction.

- ◆ Some call it ancestral bondage
- ◆ Some animistic people call it transmission of curses.
- ◆ Some Americans call it genetic influence.
- ◆ Some Americans call it generational curses.
- ◆ Some describe it as the wounding of abusive, codependent, emotionally distant parents.

Question: What’s the normal prognosis?

Answer: Fatalism!

(In other words)

- ◆ We are told that we are bound to live with the curse of the wounds from our ancestry.

Question: What’s the result?

Answer: Fatalism! Futility! And a life void of happiness and joy!

(But what does Scripture say?)

1. When Jesus died, God had a view of the relationship between us and our ancestors.
2. When Jesus died, God freed us from the futility we inherited from them.
3. When Jesus died, all the blessings of heaven were purchased for those who trust Him.

(What’s it mean now?)

- ◆ It means when God blesses, no one can curse.
- ◆ It means Jesus died and if your sins are forgiven, you are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus!

(In other words)

- ◆ No hex can be held against you!
- ◆ No curse can have power over you!

- ◆ No bondage can continue to enslave you!
- ◆ No threats can ever intimidate you!
- ◆ No damaging prophecies from your enemies can stand before you!
- ◆ No past wounds or inflictions from abusive parents, uncles, grandparents or whoever are beyond the healing of Jesus.

(People have been lied to)

- ◆ “Your parents are dysfunctional, so you’ll be dysfunctional.”
- ◆ “Your parents were on welfare, so you’ll live on welfare.”
- ◆ “Your parents were alcoholic, so you’ll be alcoholic.”
- ◆ “Your parents were bad examples, so you’ll be bad examples.”

(But God says)

- ◆ “You have been redeemed from every futile way of your forefathers that was unprofitable for you!!!”

VI. At Calvary – Jesus Enables Us To Live A Righteous Life!

I Peter 2:24; *“Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree. Why? That we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness.”*

Question: What did Jesus do?

Answer: *“He bore our sins in His own body on the tree.”*

Question: Why did Jesus die on the tree (or cross)?

Answer: #1. So that you would no longer be dominated by sins attraction and,
#2. So that you can now **“live unto righteousness.”**

Question: What does it mean to **“live unto righteousness”**?

Answer: It means that when Jesus suffered and died, He freed us to live a life of submission to God.

- ◆ Sin’s power was broken in our lives at Calvary, to enable us to obediently submit our entire being to God.

(In other words)

- ◆ Jesus died on our behalf to enable us to glorify God through living a righteous life in character and conduct.

(Romans 6:13)

“Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”

Question: What’s the response from our heart in light of Jesus dying for us?

Answer: *“Present (or yield) your members to God as instruments for righteousness.”*

Question: What are our members that we yield unto God?

Question: What is it that we present to God for the purpose of working righteousness?

1. **My mind** (I present my thought life over to God to dwell on holy thoughts.)
2. **My eyes** (I present my eye gate to the Lord and guard what travels to my soul.)
3. **My ears** (We consecrate our listening capabilities over to God, refusing to be defiled by poisonous and contaminating things.)

4. **My mouth** (We consecrate our speech to the Lord so our tongue edifies instead of destroys.)
5. **My hands** (We dedicate our hands to serve God (and not ourselves) in service to build His Kingdom.)
6. **My feet** (We dedicate our feet to walk only in the places where God wants us to travel).
7. **My heart** (We consecrate the seat of our affections and desire to remain pure in motives for service, attitudes towards people and surrendered to God.)

(We truthfully sing)
“I surrender all”

- ◆ Seven things took place at the Old Testament altar:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Atonement | 3. Restitution | 5. Thanksgiving | 7. Dedication |
| 2. Sacrifice | 4. Praise | 6. Worship | |
- ◆ Jesus died so that we could **dedicate** our members in **righteous living!**

VII. At Calvary – Jesus Gives Us Access Into The Very Presence Of God!

Question: How many of you are glad that you can be close to God (and not long distance in relationship?)

Question: What does it mean to be near to God?

(I John 2:2 describes it)

“And He (Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (That’s you)

- The word propitiation means **“mercy seat”** in Greek. (Romans 3:25)
- It means **“to make favorable and bring near.”**
- It’s a picture of Calvary solving the problem by removing the obstacle that kept us away from God.
- It’s Jesus at Calvary doing what we couldn’t do for ourselves.

(I Peter 3:18 describes it)

“For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us near to God.”

(Hebrews 9:24 describes it)

“For Christ has entered into heaven, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

(Ephesians 2:18 describes it)

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

(Ephesians 2:14 describes it)

“For he is our peace who has made us one, and has broken down the middle wall of partition between us.”

(Hebrews 10:19 says)

“Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

Question: What does it mean to have boldness to enter into the holiest?

Answer: It means something that is life-changing.

1. Only the Old Testament high priest could go once a year into the most holy place (of the tabernacle) where the glory of God appeared.
2. There was a curtain protecting the place of God's glory and presence.
3. The curtain was to protect the Holiness of God from sinful man.

Question: And what does Jesus do?

Answer: Hebrews 10:20, *"By a new and living way which He has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh."*

Question: What does Jesus do?

Answer: In Matthew 27:51, when Jesus died, *"The curtain of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."* **(Why?)**

- To tell us all that we are not cut off from God any longer.
- You can go with Jesus into the holiest places of God's presence.
- You can now come close and feast on the rich fellowship of God's glorious presence.

**(So much so – that Hebrews 10:19 says)
"Come with boldness."**

- The word "boldness" (PARRESIAN) means:
1. Freely 2. Openly 3. Confidently 4. With assurance

(In other words)

- Don't forfeit your opportunities in prayer and worship.
- Don't forfeit your intimacy and fellowship with Jesus.
- Don't forfeit what cost so much for you to have. **(Why not?)**
- Because there is no longer a veil that separates man from God.
- Instead, access is yours through the rending of Christ's body.

(Hebrews 4:15, 16)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Question: Why did Jesus suffer and die?

Answer: To "sympathize with our weaknesses".

Question: What does that mean?

Answer: It means Jesus actually feels the very experience that you experience.

- He was touched with what now touches you and,
- He was tempted with what now tempts you. **(In other words)**
- Not only do we have access into God's glorious presence,
- But we have access to receive something from God! **(What is it?)**

(Hebrews 4:16)

“Mercy and grace in the time of need”

1. What is **mercy**?

- It is God not giving us what we deserve.
- And we all need mercy because all of us have sinned.

2. What is **grace**?

- It is God giving us what we don't deserve.
- It is God helping us by pouring out His grace upon us in time of need.

“Grace in time of need” is:

- ◆ God strengthening you in trial
- ◆ God holding you in tribulation
- ◆ God enabling you in trouble
- ◆ God sustaining you in temptation

(In other words)

- Because Jesus suffered and died, He is now your High Priest to enable you to walk through and triumph in every circumstance.

Question: How does someone receive mercy and grace?

Answer: Hebrews 4:16 – *“Let us come boldly unto the throne of grace.*

(In other words)

- Grace only flows to those who humble themselves and ask for it.

Amen
Bill Kirk