

THE PLACE CALLED "CALVARY"

(What Actually Happened When Jesus Died?)



ON A HILL FAR AWAY

- ◆ The Debt Was Paid
- ◆ The Law Was Satisfied
- ◆ The Devil Was Conquered
- ◆ The Doorway Was Opened

"And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified Jesus." (Luke 23:33)

Bill Kirk

"THE CRUCIFIXION"

Text: Luke 12:33

Subject: What Happened at the Place Called Calvary?

Introduction

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

"And when they were come to the place which is 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 not a death planned solely by evil men! **(In fact)**
- ◆ Calvary was the plan conceived by God in eternity past!
- ◆ Calvary was the foreordained place where God's Son should die as the Savior of the world.

(Revelation 13:8)

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of **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) in the Old Testament.

Fact: So, Christ, our Passover Lamb was "**foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifested in these last time for you." (I 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.

Question: What was crucifixion?

Answer: It was the most horrible of deaths.

- ◆ There was the pain of the spikes driven through the flesh of Jesus’ hands and feet.
- ◆ There was the weight of the body pulling against the spikes as the cross was lifted into place.
- ◆ There was the hot sun, dry mouth, and unquenchable thirst.
- ◆ There was the blood flowing from the lacerated back.
- ◆ There was the crown of thorns on His brow and spear driven into His side.
- ◆ There was the scourged back and stick beaten head.
- ◆ There was the mocking, ridicule, spitting, punching, rejection, nakedness and taunting.

(But the most important question is why)

- ◆ Why was Jesus crucified at the place called Calvary?
- ◆ Why the Old Rugged Cross?
- ◆ Why was Jesus crucified for you and me?

I. Jesus Was Crucified to Pay 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 inequities 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?

Question: 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. (Repeat)

(II Corinthians 5:21 states)

“For He has 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 you 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?

II. Jesus Was Crucified to Satisfy the Just Demands of a Holy God:

Question: How many of you know that if God is holy and we are sinful, God demands just payment for sin?

Question: And, how many of you know that none of us can satisfy the just demands of God to turn His wrath away from us?

(What’s the answer?)

- ◆ Christ at Calvary can pay the penalty for sin and meet the just demands of God’s Holy Law.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God can be gracious without being unjust. (And)
- ◆ God can be just without being ungracious.

(In Other Words)

1. **Atonement** took place at Calvary.
 - ◆ Which means, to cover both the sins and the sinner.
2. **Substitution** took place at Calvary.
 - ◆ Which means, Jesus bore the penalty that was ours, in order that we might escape it.
3. **Redemption** took place at Calvary.
 - ◆ Which means, to loose from bondage by the paying of a price.
4. **Reconciliation**: took place at Calvary.

- ◆ Which means, when Jesus died, He annulled the distance between a Holy God and sinful man.

(II Corinthians 5:18 says)

“God has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ.”

(Romans 5:10 says)

“When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.”

(Colossians 1:21 says)

“We who were alienated by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled.”

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

(Redemption is illustrated for us in The Bible)

- ◆ It is found in the Old Testament law of **the kinsman-redeemer** (Leviticus 25:47-49)
- ◆ According to Leviticus 25, if someone had sold their property (and sold themselves into servitude) because of debt...they could regain both their land and liberty if redeemed by someone who possessed three qualifications:
 - First, he must be kin to the man.
 - Secondly, he must be willing to redeem or buy back.
 - Thirdly, he must have the price of payment.

(Jesus fulfilled all three requirements)

1. He became kin to us by taking our nature as a human being.
2. He was willing to give up all to redeem us.
3. He (being Divine) was able to pay the required price (with His own sinless blood).

III. Jesus Was Crucified to Deal the Fatal Blow to Satan’s Domain:

- ◆ Calvary includes victory over Satan and sin’s power.
- ◆ Calvary declared that Jesus conquered satan on your behalf.

Question: How do I know that I can live victoriously over the devil?

(Colossians 2:15)

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

(Hebrews 2:14)

"Through death Jesus destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

(Revelation 12:11)

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

(I John 4:4)

"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Calvary is the dynamo which generates in your heart a response.
- ◆ Calvary inspires us to say "I'll live for Him who died for me."
- ◆ Calvary provokes us to hate sin that offends God and crucified Jesus.

(Romans 6:1, 2)

"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid, how can we who died to sin still live in it?"

(V. 18) "Being made free from sin, we become the servants of righteousness."

Question: How many of you are grateful that sin's power doesn't have to rule You any longer?

IV. Jesus Was Crucified to Bring Us Near 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 the 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)

"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 invites us.)

"Having therefore brothers, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus."

(Conclusion – Altar Call)

(There are only two ways to respond to the crucifixion)

1. There is the **"unrepentant"** observer of Calvary:

"And one of the thieves which were hanged beside Jesus railed on Him."
(Luke 23:39)

- ◆ This observer was guilty before God in need of a Savior.
- ◆ This observer needed to be saved and forgiven.
- ◆ This observer mocked the truth that Jesus was the Christ.
- ◆ This observer revealed his hardness of heart.
- ◆ This observer missed his window of opportunity.

2. There is the **"repentive"** observer of Calvary who said:

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

- ◆ This observer was also guilty before God in need of a Savior.
- ◆ This observer also needed to be saved and forgiven.
- ◆ This observer also had opportunity as the other.
- ◆ But this observer opened his heart, confessed the Lord and asked the Lord for mercy.

Question: Does Jesus respond to humility and repentance?

Answer: (V. 43) "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

(In Other Words)

- ◆ **Hardness of heart** leaves you in sin!
- ◆ **Repentance of heart** saves you from sin!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk