

What Happened To Jesus At The Cross?

Savor The Savior, Session 11

Introduction:

- There is nothing more crucial than the cross of Christ.
- In fact, "crucial" comes from the Latin word for "cross" (*crux*)
- R. C. Sproul: "Paul was saying in that in all of his teaching, in all of his preaching, in all of his missionary activity, the central point of importance was the cross. In effect, this teacher was saying to his students, 'You might forget other things that I teach you, but don't ever forget the cross, because it was on the cross, through the cross, and by the cross that our Savior performed His work of redemption and gathered His people for eternity.'" (*The Truth of the Cross*, Kindle Locations 47-50, Kindle Edition.)

I. The Anticipation Of The Cross

A. The Death Of Christ Was Planned By The Triune Godhead In Eternity Past

- Philip Ryken: "According to God's eternal plan, the cross of Christ was inevitable." (*Salvation By Crucifixion*, Christian Focus, 2014, Kindle Location 154)

1. The Crucifixion Was Foreknown By God

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

2. Christ Was Involved In The Plan

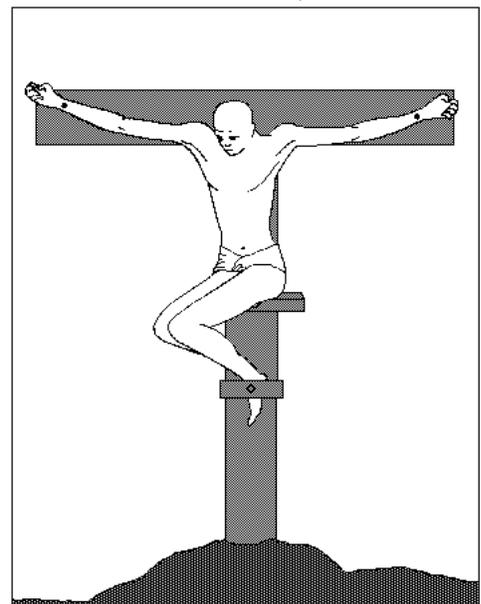
Revelation 13:8 "The Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world"

3. Christ Submitted To The Plan

Hebrews 10:5,7 "When Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me...Then I said,...I have come to do your will, O God'"

- "Not only was the Incarnation of the eternal Word a part of the triune Godhead's eternal plan but so also was His substitutionary redemptive sacrifice on the cross to provide

Drawing showing the position of the body during crucifixion, based on a skeleton found near Jerusalem. (NBD p. 253)



salvation and eternal life for all who believe in Him.” (Witmer, *Immanuel*, pp. 100-101)

4. **Christ Knew The Details Of The Plan**

Psalm 22 - Jesus knew description of His pain detailed in this Psalm

Psalm 22:1-2 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

5. **Christ Foretold The Plan To The Disciples** (Mt 16:21; 17:9; 17:22; 20:17-19; 26:32; Jn 2:19-22)

Matthew 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matthew 12:22-23 ²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²³ and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

6. **Christ Affirmed The Completed Plan** (Lk 24:26)

Luke 24:26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

B. **Adam & Eve Were Told Of A Seed Who Would Have His Heel Bruised**

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

- This is called the **Proto-Evangelium** – the first good news
- The immediate seed of the woman is Cain, the ultimate seed is all mankind
- The seed of Satan is more difficult to interpret, but the NT refers to the unsaved as “you are of your father the devil” (John 8:44)
- Anything representing evil is the seed of the devil
- Offspring of the woman is every child of God

- **Enmity** = conflict, war – **Spiritual Battle**

- **Christ** will ultimately deliver a mortal blow to Satan and deliver mankind from this slavery of sin
 - Christ is the **Messiah** who would come from the seed of Eve, the seed of Abraham and Sarah to deliver mankind from sin and death
 - At the same time the devil thinks he has delivered a blow to God by killing His first born Son on the cross, Christ’s work on the cross ultimately defeated Satan

John 12:31-33 ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now will **the ruler of this world be cast out.** ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Hebrews 2:14-15 ¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,** ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason **the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

- **Satan** (called the “old serpent” in Rev 12:9) will be ultimately cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10)

C. Abraham Put His Faith In A Future Sacrificial Lamb Then Rejoiced In Christ’s Fulfillment

Galatians 3:8 ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.”

Genesis 22:8 ⁸And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together.

- God planned all along to provide a sacrifice
- **Jehovah Jireh** – the Lord will provide, the Lord will see to it
 - English word: “Provide” = *pro* – before, *video* – to see
 - Providence, Provide
 - God sees beforehand what we need

John 8:56 ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

D. David Prophesied Of Aspects Of The Cross Of Christ

Psalm 22:1 ¹To the Chief Musician. Set to “The Deer of the Dawn.” a Psalm of David. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

Psalm 69:20-21 ²⁰Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. ²¹They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

E. Isaiah Foretold Of A Suffering Savior

Isaiah 53:3-5 ³He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

F. Other Prophets Foretold Of The Messiah's

Daniel 9:26 ^{26a}And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;

Zechariah 13:6 ⁶And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

Zechariah 13:7 ^{7a}Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

Mark 14:27 ²⁷Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.'

II. The Account On The Cross

- Universal Darkness
- Divine Judgment
- Public Mocking
- Voluntary Death
- Torn Veil
- Shaken Earth
- Resurrected Saints
- Centurion's Faith
- Public Response

Event	Matthew 27:45-54	Mark 15:33-39	Luke 23:44-48
Universal Darkness	⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.	³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.	⁴⁴ Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ^{45a} Then the sun was darkened,
Divine Judgment	⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"	³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"	
Public Mocking	⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard <i>that</i> , said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled <i>it</i> with sour wine and put <i>it</i> on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."	³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard <i>that</i> , said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put <i>it</i> on a reed, and offered <i>it</i> to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."	

Voluntary Death	⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.	³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.	⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.
Torn Veil	^{51a} Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;	³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.	^{45b} and the veil of the temple was torn in two.
Shaken Earth	^{51b} and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split		
Resurrected Saints	⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.		
Centurion's Faith	⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"	³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"	⁴⁷ So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"
Public Response			⁴⁸ And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.

A. The Darkness Of Judgment

1. The World Realizes The Reality Judgment – Universal Darkness

Event	Matthew 27:45-54	Mark 15:33-39	Luke 23:44-48
Universal Darkness	⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.	³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.	⁴⁴ Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. ^{45a} Then the sun was darkened,

- 6th hour = noon (days start at 6 am - 0 hour)
- until 3 pm

a. What happened to the light of the sun in the middle of the day?

- The sun was at it's height from noon to 3 pm
- A critic suggested an eclipse
- But astronomical records point out the moon was far away from the path of the sun on that day
- Passover time was during full moon (lunar calendar)
- Luke used the word *ekleipoi* to describe the darkness, and we do get our word eclipse from this - but it literally means failing or ceasing to exist – there was no eclipse of the sun by the moon

Q: Who ever heard of a 3 hour eclipse anyway?

- God could bring miraculous light and darkness – He controls the sun

- Plague of Darkness from Locust (Ex 10)

Exodus 10:14-15 ¹⁴And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. *They were* very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. ¹⁵For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened

- Sun stood still for 24 hours (Josh 10)

Joshua 10:12-14 ¹²Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." ¹³So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge upon their enemies. *Is* this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day. ¹⁴And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

- Earth's rotation reversed (2 Kings 20)

- Isaiah told Hezekiah that the shadow would go back 10 degrees on the sundial

2 Kings 20:9-11 ⁹Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: *shall* the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" ¹⁰And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." ¹¹So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

b. How far did the darkness extend?

- Darkness fell upon the **land** (word used for earth)
- Luke indicates that it was worldwide: "over all the earth until the ninth hour."
- Some literature aside from the Scriptures that may give hint that it was worldwide darkness:
 - Origen (*Against Celsus*, 2.33) cited a Roman historian who mentioned this darkness
 - Tertullian noted that the pagans knew of the darkness of this day: "At the moment of Christ's death, the light departed from the sun and the land was darkened at noonday, which wonder is related in your own annals and is preserved in your archives to this day." (*Apologeticum*, quoted by MacArthur, *The Murder of Jesus*, p. 228-229)

- Pilate had a report to Emperor Tiberius that assumed his knowledge of this darkness - even mentioning it from 12 noon - 3 pm

c. What is the purpose of the darkness?

- The purpose is not clear, but the picture is
- Darkness is a sign of God’s judgment on man’s dark heart
- Amos & Zephaniah describe the day of judgment as a day of darkness and gloom
- The cross was the place of judgment of man’s sin
- The people didn’t pay attention to the darkened sky nor their darkened heart

2. The Savior Bore The World’s Judgment – The Divine Judgment

Divine Judgment	⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"	³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"	
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a. The Righteous Christ: Our Sins He Took

2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

b. The Holy Father: His Son He Forsook

- Holy God must forsake sin
- *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* - quoting Ps 22:1 in Aramaic

Significance of Cry:

1) Jesus knew all along what He was going to experience

Read Ps 22:1,6-7,14-18

¹ My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*

⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. ⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, ⁸ "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me.

¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

2) **Sense His agony of separation from that which had always been eternally united**

- God the Father & Son spent forever in eternity past together
- Death = separation
- Physical death – separation of soul from body
- Spiritual death – separation of soul from God
 - Man is already spiritually dead without Christ

Ephesians 2:1 “dead in trespasses and sin”

- When man physically dies without Christ – spiritual death continues in hell

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 “everlasting destruction *from* the presence of the Lord”

Elizabeth Browning:

Yea, once Immanuel's orphaned cry his universe hath shaken.

It went up single, echoless, "My God, I am forsaken!"

It went up from the Holy's lips amid his lost creation,

That, of the lost, no son should use those words of desolation

3. **The Savior Yielded To The End Result Of Judgment – The Voluntary Death**

Voluntary Death	⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.	³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.	⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.
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a. **Christ Did Not Die By Crucifixion**

- crucifixion had more to do with the breaking of His body and shedding of blood, that it did in His death

- remember crucifixion limited His ability to breath - exhale

- yet mustered enough strength to shout loudly

b. Christ Gave Himself Up By His Own Decision

- Christ gave up His own life when He decided

Jn 19:30 "It is finished"

Luke 23:46 "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

- **Yielded** = *aphiemi* - letting go or send away by choice

Q: Was this a suicide then? No - they were killing Him - but He willingly yielded to death, He willing gave in to the death man planned

B. The Hope Of Salvation

1. The Ultimate Sacrifice Paid For Sinful Man's Access To The Holy God – Torn Veil

Torn Veil	^{51a} Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;	³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.	^{45b} and the veil of the temple was torn in two.
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a. Tearing The Veil Showed The Heart Of The Griever

b. Tearing The Veil Was An Access For The Believer (Heb 4:16)

- temple - *naos* - refers to inner sanctuary, Holy of Holies where God dwelt
- thick veil - massive blue curtain, woven with ornate decorations
- God is giving His presence to all who would enter in the holiness of Christ
- no more need for Jewish sacrificial system of animals to gain access to God – gained through Christ
- Only High Priest had access to God before Christ

Hebrews 9:7-8 ⁷But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and *for* the people's sins *committed* in ignorance; ⁸the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

- The temple is no longer significant
 - dramatic - temple full of worshipers for Passover Sacrifice

- 3:00 pm - time of sacrifice - Jesus died when they killed a lamb and trumpet shout
- Christ, the ultimate High Priest, gave the ultimate sacrifice
Hebrews 9:11-12 ¹¹But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
- God invites us to come before Him confidently

Hebrews 4:16 ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. The Open Tombs Previewed The Glory Of The Resurrection – Resurrected Saints

Resurrected Saints	⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.		
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- not all dead - but those who were believers - O.T. saints
- Many questions raised - aren't answered (suggested by Carson):
 - What kind of bodies did they have? probably resurrection bodies
 - Did they die again? - probably not - translated to heaven
 - Who saw them? - not said
 - If raised when Jesus die, but not appear until after resurrection, what we're they doing in the meantime?
 - one scholar convincingly suggests that sentence should end at middle v. 52
 - the graves were opened - at time of death
 - later, at resurrection - bodies were raised and resurrected
 - Jesus, the Firstfruit of resurrection
 - remember - no punctuation in actual writing
- When Jesus Arose His Story They Told
 - didn't spread out until 3 days later when Jesus was resurrected
 - 1 Cor 15:20 - Jesus was first to be resurrected (Firstfruits of resurrection)
 - were a temporary witness of **victory over death**

C. The Response From Man

1. A Crowd's Reaction To The Crucifixion – Public Mocking

Public Mocking	⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard <i>that</i> , said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled <i>it</i> with sour wine and put <i>it</i> on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."	³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard <i>that</i> , said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put <i>it</i> on a reed, and offered <i>it</i> to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."	
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Man’s Response: One Gave Gall, The Others Had Gall (47-49)

- even with the miraculous darkness, man mocked
- one gave gall - give cheap wine - sour - highly diluted with water
 - thirst quencher - probably like All Sport (I’m a Gatorade guy myself)
 - *oxos* = vinegar
 - not sure if act of **mercy** or **mockery**
 - given to ease pain or prolong pain - had both effect
- but others mocked - referring to Elijah - because they heard Eli, Eli - not misunderstand - they intentionally mocked & changed words around

2. A Creation’s Reaction To The Crucifixion – Shaken Earth

Shaken Earth	^{51b} and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split		
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Hebrews 12:25-27 ²⁵See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

3. The Centurion’s Reaction To The Crucifixion – Centurion’s Faith

Centurion’s Faith	⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"	³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"	⁴⁷ So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"
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- Centurion – commander over 100 man unit
- The Roman Army (adapted from MacArthur, *The Murder Of Jesus*, p. 236)
- 25 Legions worldwide
- 1 Legion = 6,000 men
- Each legion divided into 10 Cohorts

- Cohort = 600 men
- Each cohort had 3 maniples
- Each maniple had 2 centuries
- Each century was commanded by a centurion

- Matthew's indictment upon Jews who not believe - that a Gentile did

Proper response:

- 1) Fear - *phobeo*- frightened of God's power, judgment and holiness
- fear of God in light of our sinfulness
- 2) Faith - soldier believed

- men disciples chickened out and fled

4. The Crowd's Return To Normal Life – Public Response

Public Response			⁴⁸ And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.
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III. The Agony Of The Cross

A. The Physical Agony Of His Death

Perpetrators	Passage Matt 27	Persecution	Provocation (Roman Custom = RC)	Pain
The Soldiers	26	Scourged	RC #1: Flogging condemned person with <i>flagrum</i>	Whipped with bone or barb- tipped leather straps digging into the skin often leaving a prisoner faint and in shock
	27-28	Strip & robe	Proud cruelty	Rough cloth over open wound
	29	Mock crown & worship	Mimic emperor's wreath worn on official events	Thorns twisted into temple level of the skull - head already pounding
	30	Spit & strike	Proud cruelty	Bamboo-like strikes to the skull. Adds to hand-beating from Mt 26:67
	31	Disrobe & re-clothe	Proud cruelty	Ripping off clothes tears the skin adhered to the clothing through dry blood
	32	Parade	RC #2: Tie hands to crossbar and parade to humiliate and to make an example	Crossbar (<i>patibulum</i>) weighs 110 lbs. and carried 650 yds. - arms & shoulders unrelieved in pain from blood loss
	33	Golgotha	RC #3: Roman crucifixion took place outside the city limits (Jn 19:17) Mosaic Law also performed executions outside the city (Num 15:35)	Intensify shamefulness Ps 22:6-7 "I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men...despised of the people...laugh[ed] to scorn" Deut 21:23 "body not remain overnight...bury...so...not defile the land...the Lord...gave" Gal 3:13 "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"

	34	Myrrh	RC #4: Administer sedative to keep victim from struggling when being nailed	Not done to mercifully ease pain, but to aid soldiers in their cruel act of nailing the wrists and ankles
	35	Crucifixion	RC #5: Cross usually an upper-case "T" and 5-6 feet off the ground RC #6: Condemned person nailed through bones of wrists & ankles (Jn 20:27)	* Slow death with maximum pain * Feels full weight on nails in the feet * Air can be drawn in but not easily exhaled (carbon dioxide build up brings cramping) causing burning pain
	35	Divided garment	RC #7: Crucify naked RC #8: Soldiers keep victim's possessions (cf. Ps 22:18)	Humiliation
	36-37	Mock sign	RC #9: Soldier carry sign indicating criminal's crime	Humiliation - written in Hebrew, Greek & Latin so everyone could mock
	Jn 19:32-33	Crurifragium - breaking of legs - intended by not carried out on Jesus	RC #10: Because some prisoners would remain alive for a few days, the legs were broken to accelerate the time of death	Disables person's ability to breathe through pushing up on legs - accelerates suffocation Note: Because of inability to breathe, prisoners spoke in short sentences. Jesus' seven last phrases were terse
	Jn 19:34	Pierce side	RC #11: Ensure death by seeing separation of water from blood	Jesus is already dead at this point
The Thieves	38,44	Revile	Perhaps Christ's righteousness brought conviction, but they responded in pride	The unrighteous muggers cast judgment upon the righteous Savior
The Crowd	39-40	Blaspheme	Behaving before man greater than behavior before God	The crowd who once followed with curiosity became full of animosity
		Wag head	Eastern expression of scorn	Rejected with wag, not accepted with nod
The Religious Leaders	41-43	Mock	Superseded outward religion over inward righteousness	Jews wanted a scapegoat in Christ, but rejected Christ as Scapegoat

John 19:31-33 31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

- Islam claim Jesus didn't die on the cross
- Some liberals claim that Jesus merely swooned
- But the reality of the cross demonstrates the reality of Christ's death

1. **No Breath (Asphyxiation)**

- Must push up to breathe and relieve lungs
- Can't breathe when at low point
- Weight of body pulls down on the intercostal pectoral and deltoid muscles around the lung
- Increasingly unable to breathe until point of consciousness and asphyxiation
- Hanging low on cross for 30 minutes is proof of death
- Crurifragium

John 19:33 ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

- The practice of smashing the lower leg bones of the crucified victim to speed up the time of death so he could not lift his legs to help himself exhale otherwise the victim could spend hours or days on the cross - this way the victim would be asphyxiated as his lungs filled with carbon dioxide - this also increased shock
- The Expert Executioners already determined Jesus to be dead.
- "But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs." (John 19:33)

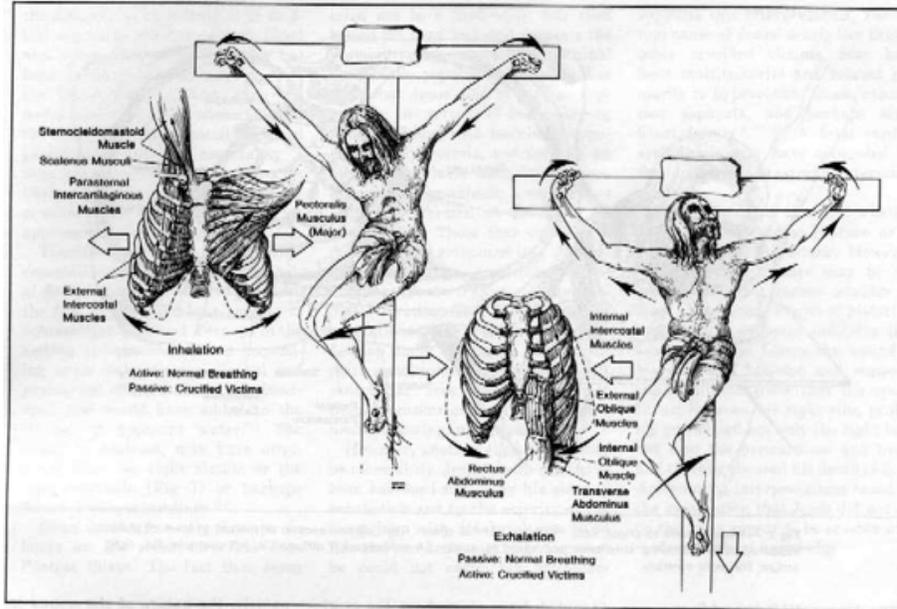


Fig 6.—Respirations during crucifixion. Left, Inhalation. With elbows extended and shoulders abducted, respiratory muscles of inhalation are passively stretched and thorax is expanded. Right, Exhalation. With elbows flexed and shoulders adducted and with weight of body on nailed feet, exhalation is accomplished as active, rather than passive, process. Breaking legs below knees would place burden of exhalation on shoulder and arm muscles alone and soon would result in exhaustion asphyxia.

(William D. Edwards, MD; Wesley J. Gabel, M Div; Floyd E. Hosmer, MS, AMI – “On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ,” JAMA Vol. 255 No. 11 March 21, 1986, <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/deathjesus.pdf>)

- Edwards, Gabel, Hosmer: “The major pathophysiologic effect of crucifixion, beyond the excruciating pain, was a marked interference with normal respiration, particularly exhalation (Fig 6). The weight of the body, pulling down on the outstretched arms and shoulders, would tend to fix the intercostal muscles in an inhalation state and thereby hinder passive exhalation.(2,10,11) Accordingly, exhalation was primarily diaphragmatic, and breathing was shallow. It is likely that this form of respiration would not suffice and that hypercarbia would soon result. The onset of muscle cramps or tetanic contractions, due to fatigue and hypercarbia, would hinder respiration even further.” (“On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ,” JAMA Vol. 255 No. 11 March 21, 1986, <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/deathjesus.pdf>)

2. Pierced Heart (Jn 19:34-37)

- Blood and water come out from pericardium

- It was a common in Roman executions to administer a death blow (coup de gras) in crucifixions – crush skull, break leg (crucifragium)

John 19:34-37 34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. 35 He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” 37 And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

- Norman Geisler and Ron Brooks wrote in an article: "The spear entered through the rib cage, pierced His right lung, the sack around the heart and the heart itself, releasing both blood and pleural fluids. Jesus was unquestionably dead before they removed Him from the cross, and probably before the wound was inflicted. The wounds in both His wrists and feet would have severed the major nerves. The final wound to His side would have been fatal in itself."
- Medical doctors have written that this mixture of blood and water is a clear sign of death. Jesus was dead.
 - Jesus experienced Hypovolemic Shock – shock from blood loss from flogging, crown of thorns, nails through hands and feet
 - Dr. Alexander Metherell, M.D., Ph.D. tells Lee Stroebel: “Even before he died ... the hypovolemic shock would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called a *pericardial effusion*, as well as around the lungs, which is called a *pleural effusion*.”

... “The spear apparently went through the right lung and into the heart, so when the spear was pulled out, some fluid – the pericardial effusion and the pleural effusion – came out. This would have the appearance of a clear fluid, like water, followed by a large volume of blood, as the eyewitness John described in his gospel.” (*The Case For Easter*, p. 21)

- Does the order of “blood” before “water” contradict the water prior to the blood reality? No, there was more blood than water and that was probably emphasized in the order of the words – quantity over chronology.

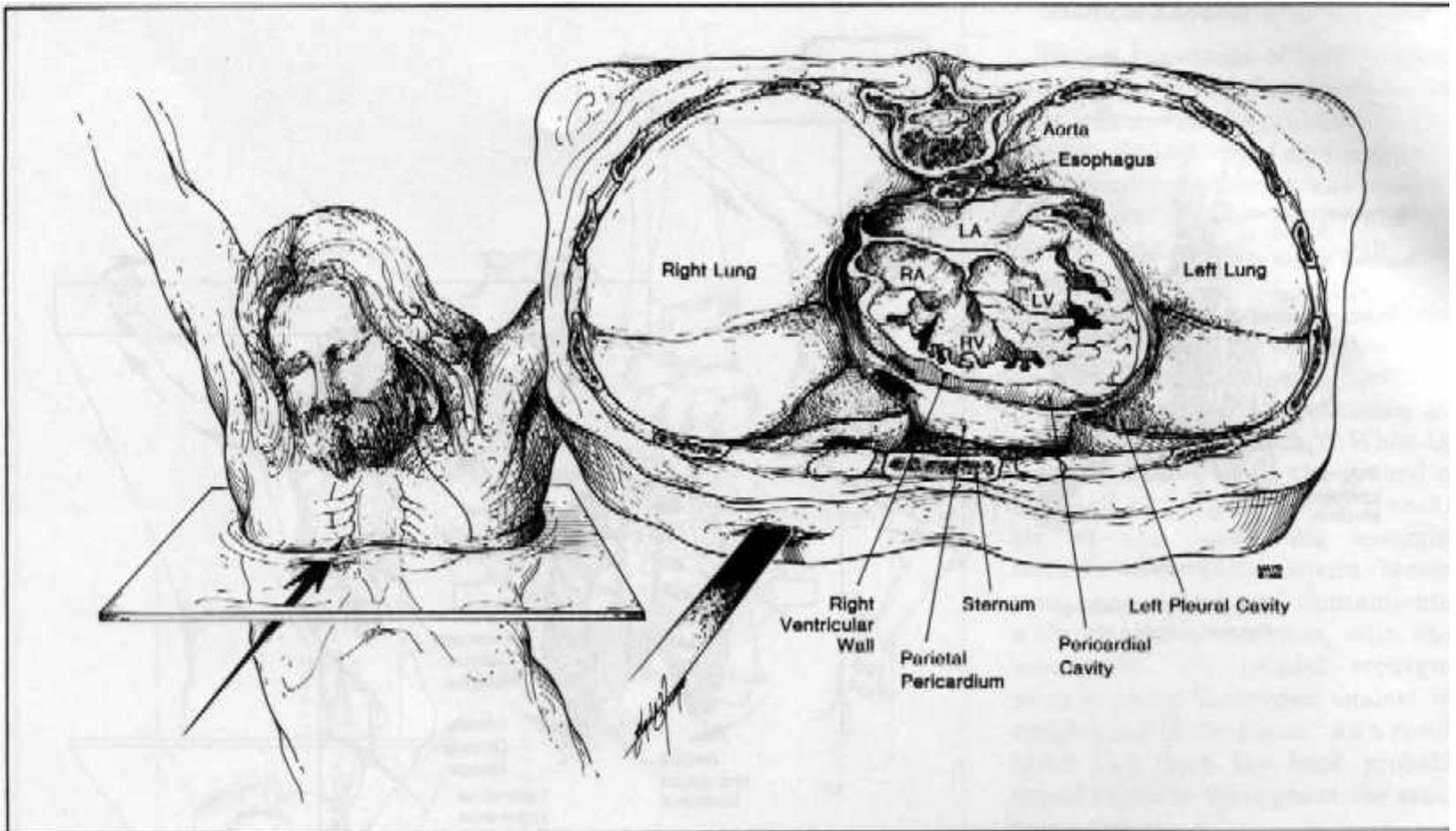


Fig 7. —Spear wound to chest. Left, Probable path of spear. Right, Cross section of thorax, at level of plane indicated at left, showing structures perforated by spear. LA indicates left atrium; LV, left ventricle; RA, right atrium; RV, right ventricle.

(William D. Edwards, MD; Wesley J. Gabel, M Div; Floyd E. Hosmer, MS, AMI – “On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ,” JAMA Vol. 255 No. 11 March 21, 1986, <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/deathjesus.pdf>)

3. Sucking Chest

- Stab in chest (upper thoracic) and through lung, there will be a sucking sound if still alive
- If no sound, then dead

4. Pierced Feet

Psalm 22:16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet

- There were critics saying that pierced feet did not happen in crucifixion – merely a rope was used.
- But archaeologists found evidence of a 7” nail through the footbone of a man named Yohanán in 1968 in Jerusalem when dozens of Jews who were executed for rioting against Rome circa 70 A.D.

Calcaneus transfixied by an iron nail, from a first century AD Jewish tomb at Giv'at ha-Mivtar.

Excavated bone on the right, model reconstruction on left.
[Reproduced with the kind permission of Dr Joe Zias, Israel.]

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1420788/>



- Dr. Metherel to Lee Stroebel: "... there's just no way he could have survived the cross. But if he had, how could he walk around after nails had been driven through his feet? How could he have appeared on the road to Emmaus just a short time later, strolling for long distances? How could he have used his arms after they were stretched and pulled from their joints? Remember, he had also had massive wounds on his back and a spear wound to his chest." (*The Case For Easter*, p. 25)

B. The Spiritual Agony Of His Death

- "As ghastly as the pain of crucifixion was, we know that multitudes of persons went through such affliction. But no human being, before or since, was ever called upon to endure the affliction that was heaped upon Jesus. By comparison with the pain inflicted by divine wrath and judgment of the paschal lamb, the physical pain was nothing." (Sproul, *The Glory Of Christ*, pp. 155-6)

1. The Pain Of Bearing Sin

Isaiah 53:6,12 "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...And He bore the sin of many."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

- imagine the agony that Christ must face – being perfectly righteous and then bearing the putrid sin of man

Q: Did Christ become a sinner?

No – He remained holy, but was treated as one who bore the sins of the whole world

- imputation: our sins credited to Christ

Hebrews 9:28 "So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many"

1 Peter 2:24 "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed."

2. The Pain Of Abandonment Of The Father

Matthew 27:46 "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

- at the point of bearing our sins, the Holy Father had to turn from His Son
- eternal fellowship has now been broken

ie/ pain of death, divorce, etc. – not come close to separation Son had from the Father

3. The Pain Of Bearing God's Wrath

Isaiah 53:10 "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief."

4. The Moral Objections To His Death As The Substitutionary Atonement For Man's Sin

a. God Is Unjust - God is unjust to condemn His Son to death for the penalty of others

- could be valid if the 2nd Person of the Trinity was not involved in the eternal plan, but Christ was

- "Liberal Christian scholars object to the cross because it seems eminently unjust to punish an innocent person for the guilty." (Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia Of Apologetics*, p. 143)

1 Corinthians 1:18 "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing."

b. No Worthy Substitute - A moral agent can not be responsible for the guilt of someone else's sin unless he commits it personally.

ie/ board of directors can become guilty for errors of the company's executives

ie/ parents can be responsible for a crime their child commits

ie/ landlord can be responsible for a problem the resident creates

c. Hero Concept – "According to Islam, the major prophets in history have always been victorious against their enemies. If the Christ of God was killed on the cross by his adversaries, then what would have become of the constant Qur'anic theme that those who did not obey God's prophet did not triumph?" (Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia Of Apologetics*, p. 142)

- Muslims don't believe that Jesus is crucified – they want a hero

“Muslims believe that Jesus was not crucified. It was the intention of his enemies to put him to death on the cross, but God saved him from their plot.” (Muffasir, cited by Geisler, *ibid*; cf. Koran – Sura 4:157-8)

- but there is greater victory in the resurrection

IV. The Articulations On The Cross

- ie/ in Wallechinsky, Wallace & Wallaces *The Book of Lists* - a few passing words from celebrities were shared:
 - George Bernard Shaw (author) - “I knew if I stayed around long enough, something like this would happen.”
 - Ernest Hemingway - “Pardon me for not getting up.”
 - Clark Gable (actor) - “Back to silents”
 - Dr. Albert Schweitzer (Nobel peace prize winner) - “If cannibals should ever catch me, I hope they will say: We have eaten Dr. Schweitzer, and he was good to the end...and the end wasn’t bad.”

From 9am – Noon: Light

1. “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Lk 23:34)
2. “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:43)
3. “Woman, behold your son!” (Jn 19:26-27)

From Noon – 3pm: Darkness

4. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mt 27:46)
5. “I thirst!” (Jn 19:28)
6. “It is finished!” (Jn 19:30)
7. “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Lk 23:46)

A. The Call For Forgiveness

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

- At the height of man’s greatest offense against Christ, Christ is offering forgiveness
 - Ie/ It would be like Christ telling the terrorist that He would like to forgive them when they began hijacking the plane that would crash into the Twin Towers
 - Ie/ Or like a spouse saying “I forgive you” after just being abused by her husband
- Max Lucado, one of the most picturesque Christian writers of the day, in his book *No Wonder They Call Him Savior* relates: “Of all the scenes around the cross, this one angers me the most. What kind of people, I ask myself, would mock a dying man? Who would be so base as to pour the salt of scorn upon open wounds? How low and perverted to sneer at one who is laced with pain! Who would make fun of a person who is seated in an electric chair? Or who would point and laugh at a criminal who has a hangman’s noose

around his neck? You can be sure that Satan and his demons were the cause of such filth.”

- J. C. Ryle wrote, “These words were probably spoken while our Lord was being nailed to the cross, or as soon as the cross was reared up on end. It is worthy of remark that as soon as the blood of the Great Sacrifice began to flow, the Great High Priest began to intercede.”

1. How He Died: If Jesus could forgive His murderers, He will forgive us as well.

- Concerning the movie, “The Passion of the Christ”, there is great religious debate about who killed Christ? Was it the Jews? Romans? Pilate? Herod?
- The answer from Scripture is that we all did.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

- We were all sinners – yet because He died for us, we all have the hope to be forgiven of our sins.
- If the perpetrators of the crucifixion could be offered forgiveness and we were one of them, then we can not ever say that “God will never forgive me for what I’ve done.”
- **Another Question:** What were they ignorant of when Christ recognized that they did not know what they were doing?

2. How We Live: If our wickedest offender ought to receive our forgiveness and empathy, so should the ones we live with, work with and serve with.

B. The Confirmation Of Faith

Luke 23:36-42 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.” And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

- The soldiers joined the jeers of the crowd in mocking the King of Kings
- The jeers included a challenge to get Himself down off the cross if He really was the Son of God
- Christ died between two thieves who were not about to go quietly
- One thief joins the blasphemy – “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

- The crowd expected a Messiah who would be their political deliverer from the Roman Empire. But He was not a politician nor did He deconstruct the Roman Empire. Rather He was dying at the hands of the Roman Empire.
- Thus the jeers had no hope of recognizing Him as King – only mocking His claim.
- But the other thief rebuked his partner in crime: “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”
 - He identified Christ as God – “Do you not even fear God”
 - He understood that sin was to be condemned – “seeing you are under the same condemnation”
 - He personally admitted that he is deserving of punishment – “And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds”
 - He realized that Christ was sinless and died unjustly – “but this Man has done nothing wrong.”
- Remember that this thief has done nothing to earn heaven – he was a thief.
- But here he exercised **faith** – which is why Jesus expressed:

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

- This is the hope of someone on their death bed – no religious requirements to fulfill, no water for baptism available – all they need to do is to exercise faith in Christ
- 1. How He Died:** A crook goes to heaven for a moment of faith, not a lifetime of works.
- Can we ever be assured of our eternal destiny? – Jesus said **“Assuredly”**
 - All other religions teach that eternal life is gained through practicing a religion or accumulating good works. No one could ever be sure of eternal life.
 - Who should I listen to since so many people have so many different ideas about heaven? – yet the Son of God said **“I say to you”**
 - So many opinions about religion and eternal life – yet only one counts – God’s
 - When can we be sure about tomorrow? – Christ said **“today”**
 - You can have the same security as the thief **“TODAY”**
 - Will everyone end up in heaven? – Christ specified one thief in faith saying **“you”**
 - Not everyone gets the same hope – Christ identified the thief in faith as the recipient of the gift of heaven
 - Won’t I be lonely in heaven if many of the people I know aren’t there? – Christ comforts us that we **“will be with Me”**
 - What is heaven like? – Christ describes it as **“paradise”**

2. How We Live: We should spend more effort exercising mercy than administering justice.

- Ie/ There are some children who focus on fairness – particularly the oldest child, perhaps because they're frequently in charge of distribution with the younger ones.
 - They see the younger sibling getting to do something earlier in life when they've been told to wait – so we say "Not fair".
 - Positively, we want to see everyone treated with respect and get upset if someone is treated unfairly.
- Yet Christ is showing us a different way to live – not looking for "fairness" under every rock, but exercising mercy.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

C. The Concern For Family

John 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

- Mary is distraught. The Son she raised is now being unjustly murdered before her eyes.
- her memories flashed of the angel telling her the shocking news that she would miraculously conceive a child as a virgin - and as fast as it seems that He came, the end of His life was happening faster than His beginning
- she remembers his birth in a filthy manger, now she sees Him hanging on a blood stained cross
- she remembers how her and Joseph fled to Egypt to save baby Jesus' life - only to now have it taken away – there was nothing more she could do
- she remembers the time the family went to the temple when Jesus was 12 and they left for home without Him - she got Jesus back then, she would not get Him back now
- she remembers watching Jesus learn carpentry from her husband Joseph as He learned to use a hammer and nails, but now the hammer and nails were being used on Him
- she remembered when at 30, the news came to the house that John the Baptist was preaching at the Jordan River, Jesus said He must go and He left the house for good to pursue His ministry
- she remembers the pain saying goodbye knowing that she would see Him again from time to time - this day at Calvary was different
- knowing her agony, Jesus comforts her saying "Woman, behold your son"
- *How could Mary stand to be on the scene of her Son's crucifixion (Luke 2:35)?*

Luke 2:35 in Simeon's prayer of blessing upon Mary soon after Jesus' birth, he also warned her of this precise moment saying "*yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also*"

1. How He Died: Though He endured horrific circumstances, He still thought of others before Himself.

- He calls Mary “woman” – not to disrespect her by not calling her “mother”, but to amplify the fact that He is more than a son – He is the Savior
- Mary is not magnified as “the Mother of God” as some would like to see her – she is part of the human race that needs a Savior
- She was probably a widow at this point since Joseph is not mentioned
- Jesus was telling Mary that John would take care of her
- He was also telling John to take care of His mother because Jesus’ own brothers did not believe in Him

John 7:5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- the brothers would come to faith after the resurrection

- Christ made sure His mother was taken care of

2. How We Live: The cure for self-pity is to focus on the needs of others before ourselves.

- If I were to endure hardship, my sinfulness causes me to focus on myself
- Illness, lay-off, bad relationship – we look at how we are at the wrong end of the deal
- Christ teaches us to look beyond ourselves
- He demonstrates that there are still needs to be met
- We can meet the needs of others in our times of hardship knowing that God is meeting our needs

D. The Cry Of Forsakenness

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

1. How He Died: When Christ bore our sin, the Father could not bear His Son.

- **The Realization Of Anticipated Dread**

Psalm 22:1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

Matthew 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- **The Rejection Of Eternal Intimacy - "My God, My God"**
- **The Remorse Of Anguishing Confusion - "Why"**
 - Though Jesus was abandoned by God, He still sought Him in dependence
 - Though Jesus was in His greatest adversity, He demonstrated pain without any trace of bitterness.
- **The Rigidity Of Divine Righteousness - "Have You"**
- **The Retribution For Human Sin - "Forsaken Me"**
 - Death = separation
 - Physical death – separation of soul from body
 - Spiritual death – separation of soul from God
 - Man is already spiritually dead without Christ – "dead in trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2:1)
 - When man physically dies without Christ – spiritual death continues in hell
 - "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thess. 1:8-9)

2. How We Live: If sin is so unbearable that God would forsake His Son, how long will we continue to bear our own sin?

E. The Craving For Fulfillment (Jn 19:28)

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

A. How He Died: Extreme torture heightened deprivation, the God-Man experienced the totality of physical suffering.

- Jesus was greatly dehydrated at this point – He had lost a lot of blood and fluid
- I know when I don't drink enough fluids – I get headaches
- In fact Daisy and I were both hospitalized for severe headaches at the same time – probably for extreme dehydration

B. How We Live: He thirsted for us – should we thirst after Him?

F. The Claim Of Finality

John 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

A. How He Died: His physical and spiritual suffering completed the transaction for the payment of sin.

- *teletestai* - same word found on receipts of those days - saying "Paid In Full"
ie/ credit card - debt - paid in full

B. How We Live: We no longer need to be insecure about whether we've done enough for heaven; He paid the bill already.

G. The Committal To The Father (Lk 23:46)

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

A. How He Died: Who killed Jesus? He gave up His own life.

B. How We Live: Our life and our death, our agony and our ecstasy can be fully committed over to God.

Conclusion:

1. His Death Brings Life To Those Who Are Spiritually Dead (Col 2:13)

Colossians 2:13 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

- Death = separation
 - Physical death = separation of soul and body
 - Social death = separation of loved one from family/friends
 - Ie/ seeing testimonies of spouses and children who miss their loved one from 9/11
 - Spiritual death = separation of spirit from God
- We're born spiritually dead
 - Even the cute little newborns are born spiritually dead

2. His Death Paid The Debt Of Those Who Are Spiritually Broke (Col 2:14)

Colossians 2:14 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

- Ie/ The church paid off the debt on the building – paid in full

- Our sin created a debt we couldn't pay
- Christ paid the debt of our sin
- We must recognize our spiritual poverty
- Jesus, Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs are the kingdom of God."
- Jesus uses the poorest of the "poor" words – absolutely dependent on others for sustenance

3. His Death Defeated The Devil Who Are Spiritual Enemies (Col 2:15)

Colossians 2:15 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- Satan is behind the genocide from Pharaoh & Moses' time, to Herod & Jesus' time, to "abortion on demand" movement
- From Hitler's ethnic cleansing to 9/11 Terrorism
 - Great hatred towards God, Israel, Christians
- Spiritual victory was won at the cross
- **Q:** Why does it seem that Satan seems to be winning so many spiritual battles?
 - Satan knows that He lost because of the cross
 - He's out of the pennant race and is playing the spoiler – trying to take down as many rivals from the top as possible

At The Cross (lyrics by Isaac Watts)

Alas! and did my Savior bleed
 And did my Sov' reign die?
 Would He devote that sacred head
 For such a worm as I?

Chorus:
 At the cross, at the cross where I first
 saw the light,
 And the burden of my heart rolled
 away,
 It was there by faith I received my
 sight,
 And now I am happy all the day!

Was it for crimes that I had done
 He groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity! grace unknown!
 And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide
 And shut his glories in,
 When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
 For man the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
 While His dear cross appears,
 Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
 And melt my eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
 The debt of love I owe:
 Here, Lord, I give myself away,
 'Tis all that I can do.