

LESSON #86 – JESUS CRUCIFIED AND THE EVENTS ON THE CROSS

Matt. 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37

From the very beginning of His life, Jesus had fulfilled many of the prophecies which the prophets had made as they spoke God's Word hundreds of years before His birth. You will maybe remember that the prophets had said that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem, in Judea, and that He would be born of a virgin. The prophets had said that He would be a Nazarene and Jesus lived in Nazareth. These, and many more things, happened just the way the prophets said they would. That is because the prophets in the Old Testament were speaking God's Word. God knows what is going to happen and so He could tell His people what was going to happen. Now we come to the death of Jesus. Just as in His birth, the things which happened when Jesus died were also told about by the prophets many hundreds of years before so that the people who believed in God and knew His Words should have known that this Jesus was, indeed, the promised Savior.

The soldiers made Jesus carry His own cross to the place where He was to be crucified. But Jesus was very weak. He had been beaten and hit many times and He had had no sleep the whole night. The cross was too heavy for Him and He could not stand up under its weight. A man named Simon was walking by and the soldiers made him carry the cross for Jesus. The soldiers offered Jesus some wine mixed with something to take away the pain but Jesus would not take any of it. Then the soldiers drove the nails into His hands and feet and crucified Him between two thieves. This was just how the prophets had said it would happen. They hung a sign above His head which said, "King of the Jews." The soldiers cast lots to see who would get His clothes just as the prophets predicted.

One of the criminals shouted at Jesus, telling Him that if He was so great He should save Himself and them. But the other thief knew that Jesus was a good man and did not deserve to die like this. He asked Jesus to remember him. Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

Even while Jesus was on the cross He did not think of Himself. He prayed that God would forgive those who crucified Him because they did not know what they were going. He saw His mother and John, His disciple, at the bottom of the cross, and He told John to take care of His mother as if she was his own.

Then, all of sudden, there was complete darkness over the whole world. The sun stopped shining. It was at this time that God was punishing Jesus for the sins of His people. Those who believe will never know what Jesus went through for them. Those who do not believe will have some idea when they, themselves, are punished for their sins in hell. On the cross, during those hours of darkness, Jesus paid for the sins of His people, suffering the pains of hell for them.

He was in so much pain and anguish that He cried out. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus felt completely alone. Later, knowing that He had done what He had come to do, Jesus asked for something to drink. Then He said. "It is finished." And then Jesus gave up His life. He did not die because He had to but because He wanted to show us that death is not more powerful than our Savior. It is not something that we have to be afraid of. Jesus, our Savior, arose from the dead, and so shall we.

At the moment that Jesus died there was a great earthquake and the curtain in the temple which had divided the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was torn in two. That meant that Jesus had given the perfect sacrifice for His people. Now those who believed did not need a priest to stand before God for them because Jesus had opened the door for them. When the people saw this they said, "Surely He was the Son of God!"

Memory Verse: "The Lord has laid on HIM the iniquity of us all." – Isaiah 53:6

Application: The death of Jesus was not an accident; it was God's plan to save His people. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and YOU will be saved!"

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Today's lesson teaches us about the most horrible thing that has ever happened: the death of Jesus, the Son of God. But if you believe that Jesus was the Son of God who came to earth to pay for the sins of His people, then the crucifixion was a great event. At the end of the last lesson, Pilate wanted Jesus to speak for himself. He told Jesus that he had the power to let him live or die. Jesus told Pilate something very important for you to know; that Pilate would not be able to perform this unless it was God's will. God is more powerful than Pilate, the Jews or any other man!

As you have studied the Old Testament, you should remember that the prophets spoke about the coming Savior. Isaiah and others wrote that He would suffer and pay for the sins of His people. Jesus fulfilled all of the prophecies about the "Messiah", the "Anointed One." When Jesus was born, everything happened just as God had said it would. Now, Jesus died according to the events God had spoken through the prophets many hundreds of years before.

When the long night now over, Jesus had not slept or eaten, and he was tired and weak. The soldiers tried to make Him carry His own cross to the place where He would be crucified, but Jesus fell down under its weight. The soldiers made a man named Simon carry the cross for Jesus. They offered Jesus wine mixed with something to take away some of the pain, but Jesus would not take any of it. They nailed His hands and feet to the cross and nailed a sign above His head which said, "King of the Jews". There were two other men who had broken the law who were crucified with Jesus. The prophets had written that the Savior would be hung with criminals. Just as the Old Testament said it would happen, the soldiers cast lots to see who would get the robe which Jesus had been wearing.

As Jesus hung on the cross in great pain, one of the criminals shouted at Him, telling Him that if He was so great he should save Himself and them. The other thief saw that Jesus had done nothing wrong and didn't deserve to die. Because he knew that he was a sinner, he asked Jesus to remember him when he came into His kingdom. Jesus told him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

Jesus thought only of others even as He was on the cross. He prayed that God would forgive those who crucified Him and, seeing His mother, He told his disciple, John, to take care of her as if she were his own mother. Suddenly, there was complete darkness over the entire world. It was as dark as night. God was pouring out His anger and punishment against sin on His own Son. Was that fair and just? Was that right for God to do? Yes, this is what Jesus came to do; He came to give His life for His people. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that you are a sinner, then you will know how much Jesus bore for you. Those who do not believe will feel the anger of God in Hell, forever.

Jesus was in so much anguish that He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus felt completely alone, just as those in Hell will someday. Jesus knew that He had done what He came to do. After three hours of darkness and suffering, Jesus said, "It is finished, and he gave up His life and simply stopped living. He did not have to die, but He did so to show us that we do not have to be afraid to die. Jesus is more powerful than death!

A great earthquake shook the earth, and the curtain in the temple was torn in two! The curtain had shown the people that they needed someone to represent them before God. Jesus will go before God for those who believe! He is the Son of God!

Jesus Crucified (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“He was pierced for our transgressions,....and by His wounds we are healed.” - Isaiah 53:5

APPLICATION

Even when Jesus was being crucified, God did not let Him be without a witness. The sign which Pilate had written was really true, Jesus was the “King of the Jews.” He is the King of all those who believe in Him. See how willing Jesus is to forgive you for your sins. Because he suffered and died for you, you must love Him with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Ask Him to help you to live your life which He has given you for Him by obeying His Word. Never let this sight fade from you memory. Honor Jesus where He is now, at the right hand of God in heaven. He is King!

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to earth to die for your sins, this is the most _____ thing that has ever happened.
2. None of these things could have happened to Jesus unless it had been God’s will because God is more _____ than any man.
3. Jesus _____ all of the things which had been promised about the Savior by the prophets in the Old Testament.
4. The _____ was too heavy for Jesus to carry because He was so weak and tired.
5. Jesus was crucified between two _____.
6. Because the one criminal admitted that he was a sinner and believed that Jesus was a King, Jesus promised him that he would be with Him in _____, which is another word for heaven.
7. Even though the people had done many horrible and sinful things against Him, Jesus prayed that God would _____ those who had crucified Him.
8. As Jesus suffered for the sins of His people, the sun stopped shining, and there was complete _____ over the whole earth.
9. Jesus came into the world to pay for the sins of His people. When the hours of darkness was over, Jesus had done what He came to do, and He said, “It is _____.”
10. Jesus died so that those who believed in Him would never have to be afraid of anything, even _____!

forgive
wonderful
powerful
criminals

fulfilled
cross
darkness

death
finished
Paradise

LESSON #86 – JESUS’ BETRAYAL AND ARREST

Read Matt. 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-51; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-11

How frightening this night must have been for the disciples. They had been with Jesus for somewhere around three years. They had learned to depend on Him. They believed that He was their king and that he would be with them forever. They did not understand the things which Jesus had told them about His death and resurrection. All of what was about to happen to Jesus was because of our sin against God. We must always remember that Jesus came to take our place and to bear our judgment. How that must make us love Him if we truly understand this. And if we have His Holy Spirit within us we will. Jesus had shown His love to His disciples and to others in many ways. But what He is about to do is the greatest example of love. As you read during the coming lessons about the things which happened to Jesus remember two things: first, Jesus was true man; He really suffered in body and soul; and secondly, Jesus was true God and yet He allowed men to do these wicked things so that He might save us from our sins.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Judas know where Jesus and the disciples would be? _____
2. Whom did Judas bring with him? _____
3. What was the crowd carrying? _____
4. How did the soldiers know which one was Jesus? _____
5. What did Jesus ask them? _____
6. Did they expect Jesus to come so willingly? _____
7. What was their reaction at first? _____
8. When the followers of Jesus saw what was going to happen what did they ask Jesus? _____

9. What did Peter do? _____
10. Was Jesus pleased with what Peter had done? _____
11. What did Jesus do? _____
12. What did Jesus say to show His faith in the power of God? _____
13. What did Jesus say which showed that the Jews and Pharisees were really cowards? _____

14. Jesus explained in a few words why these things were all happening. Write down the phrase which explains why these things happened. _____
15. What happened to the disciples as the Pharisees and soldiers and others led Jesus away? _____

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

In times of suffering how do we sometimes leave Jesus and deny that we know Him as Peter will do in our next lesson?