

“His Final Day”
(The Crucifixion of Jesus)
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Mark 15:25-39

25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26 A sign announced the charge against him. It read, “The King of the Jews.” 27 Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 28 ****Some manuscripts leave this verse out.*** 29 The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. “Ha! Look at you now!” they yelled at him. “You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. 30 Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!” 31 The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can't save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!” Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. 33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” 35 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 36 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. “Wait!” he said. “Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!” 37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, “This man truly was the Son of God!”

- The beginning of the end came around 9 a.m. Friday morning!
- The Romans practiced crucifixion as a means of striking fear in the hearts of people. They did so for about 800 years!
- Crucifixion was a terrifying death and those who witnessed it were highly unlikely to violate Roman law. The motive was much like ISIS of today. Rule by fear and terror.

- It was so bad that it was common for those caught in a crime worthy of crucifixion to commit suicide.
- Cicero called crucifixion “the extreme and ultimate punishment” and “the cruelest and most disgusting penalty.”
- The Jewish historian Josephus called crucifixion “the most pitiful of deaths.”
- I am not going to talk about the “act of” or the “experience of” crucifixion because if you want to know the details of the grotesque punishment you can study it for yourselves! You should have a choice if you want to experience an R rated program!

I. Atonement as a Sacrifice!

A. The Jewish leaders, the crowd and the Romans wanted Jesus dead, but

WHY did He face this punishment so willingly?
(Romans 5:6-11)

6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. 9 And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. 10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

1. When you read Hebrews, the Epistles and then the Gospels, one seems to get a variety of reasons for this sacrifice of Atonement.

2. WHAT was really going on here?
3. We know the reason for forgiveness and redemption. It was the restoration of the Creator and His creation. God and Man!
4. But WHY all the suffering?

B. There are various “atonement theories” developed to try to explain this gross and disgusting event that our Lord endured!

1. The “Ransom Theory” says that the disobedience of Adam and Eve caused God to abandon them to the Devil! God later decided to “ransom” them and paid the devil. The payment agreed upon was the death of Jesus, Gods' son! (Mark 10:45 refers to this. "I ransom for many.")

Mark 10:45

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

2. The Moral Example Theory explains that Jesus was an example to live by and shows us the way to rise out of a life of sin and back into communion with God!
3. Another theory explains that in order for us to return to God, our debt and punishment had to be paid! God chose to put our punishment on His Son in order to satisfy what we deserved. Only then would He release forgiveness! This is called Penal-Substitutionary Atonement.
4. The Governmental Theory believes that as the governor of all life, God had to punish His Son to show us what we deserved! The severity of our sin!
5. The Christus Victor Theory explains how Jesus came to earth to defeat the evil forces that had control over man! Christ gained victory over Satan and death!
6. There are variations of truth in each theory, but the end result is accepting The Truth that we are redeemed!

C. The Day of Atonement also known as Yom Kippur!

1. It is the holiest day of the year for a Jew! Even today!
2. This year it will be celebrated at sunset on September 29th.
3. Leviticus 16:2-3, 30, 34

2 The LORD said to Moses, “Warn your brother, Aaron, not to enter the Most Holy Place behind the inner curtain whenever he chooses; if he does, he will die. For the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—is there, and I myself am present in the cloud above the atonement cover. 3 “When Aaron enters the sanctuary area, he must follow these instructions fully. He must bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 30 On that day offerings of purification will be made for you, and you will be purified in the LORD ’s presence from all your sins. 34 This is a permanent law for you, to purify the people of Israel from their sins, making them right with the LORD once each year.” Moses followed all these instructions exactly as the LORD had commanded him.

Hebrews 8:1-6

1 Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. 2 There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. 3 And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. 4 If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. 5 They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.” 6 But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

4. Jesus fulfilled this Jewish tradition!
5. As the High Priest walked into the Holy of Holies only once a year, we now have access to God’s presence in our lives every day of the year!

(Matthew 27:51)

51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,

II. The Last words of Jesus!!

A. "Here is your mother"

(John 19:27)

27 And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

1. While suffering, Jesus was thinking of others!
2. Jesus saw beyond the cross and saved us!

Hebrews 12:2

2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

B. "Father, forgive them; they do not understand."

(Luke 23:34)

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

1. Amazing words from a dying man!
2. We see Jesus with clarity of purpose.
3. He wishes even His torturers to be forgiven!

C. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

(Matthew 27:46)

46 At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

1. Hour by tortuous hour Jesus hung in agony on the cross!
2. He cries out Psalm 22:1!

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

3. Did He truly feel forsaken by God?
4. He seemed to be experiencing those times when “God is silent.”
5. We even experience those times!
6. Even though we often say it, there seems to be no scriptural support that God “turned His face away” from Jesus!

D. “I am thirsty”

(John 19:28)

28 Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”

1. Practically speaking, Jesus has had nothing to eat or drink since the last supper it seems.
2. Spiritually there is another story that bears observing!

(John 4:7)

7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.”

3. Could this statement have a double meaning? Natural and spiritual?
4. Remember, the scripture says He experienced life as we do!

(Hebrews 4:15)

15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

E. “Into Your hands I commend My Spirit”

(Luke 23:46)

46 Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.

1. Rather than “willing Himself to die” as some have suggested, it seems this statement is simply Jesus saying “Lord, I commit myself to You! In my living and in my dying, in good times and in bad times, whatever I am and whatever I have, I place myself in Your hands.”
2. So should it be with our lives!

F. "It is finished"

(John 19:30)

30 When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.

1. There is a determination in these words!
2. Jesus had fulfilled His purpose! He had done what He came to do!
3. He had demonstrated both humanity's brokenness and God's love and forgiveness!
4. Mark 15:39

39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"