

Easter Part 3- The Cross and the Perfect Sacrifice | 4/28/19

- The Purpose of the Cross
 - **To save man from the punishment that was justly due because of their sins, this is the purpose of the cross. He came to save us.**
 - John 3:17
 - “For God did not send His son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”
 - Matthew 20:28
 - “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.”
 - To save us from the eternal punishment of Hell
 - Revelations 20:15
 - “And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire”
 - He saved us by his sacrifice on the cross
 - Christ died for us out of love
 - Romans 5:8-9
 - “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! Much more then since we have now been declared righteous by His blood, we will be saved through Him from wrath.”
 - **Christ’s sacrifice paid the debt that we owed for our sins by nailing it to the cross.**
 - **Colossians 2:13-14**
 - **“And when you were dead in trespasses and in the circumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it on the cross”.**
 - There were obligations to our debt of sin. It HAD to be paid.
 - With our belief in who Jesus is and what he did, we can receive salvation.
 - Acts 10:43
 - “All the prophets testify about Him that through His name everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sin.”
 - Ephesians 2:8
 - "For you are saved by grace through faith and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift."
 - The grace of God saves us. Only because of His mercy and love did He sacrifice Jesus.
 - This is why Christ came and why He died.
- The cross
 - The road to Golgotha
 - Jesus was then given the burden of the cross to carry to Golgotha (Place of a Skull). | John 19:17
 - “So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.”
 - Jesus was made to carry his cross to the site of His crucifixion.
 - Along the way he needed help from Simon of Cyrene.
 - Luke 23:26

- “And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.
- Jesus was nailed to the cross and crucified between two other criminals. An inscription was also placed above Him. | John 19:18-22
 - **Read John 19:18-22**
 - Jesus was placed between two other men who were being crucified for their crimes.
 - And Pilate put an inscription above Jesus which read “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”
 - The Jews tried to have Pilate change it, but Pilot would not do so.
- **The crowds mocked Jesus and said to “prove that He was the Son of God. | Matthew 27:39-43**
 - **Read Matthew 27:39-43**
 - Those looking on mocked Jesus telling Him to save Himself if He was truly the Son of God.
 - Luke 23:35b
 - “...He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”
 - **The truth is if Jesus had chosen to come down from that cross He certainly could have.**
 - But instead, He stayed so that he could bear the sins of those who mocked Him.
 - **They even said that IF He came down THEN, they would believe in Him**
 - Mark 15:32a
 - “Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe.”...
 - **These comments from these onlookers are no different than those in the world today that do not believe.**
 - The world wants God to come down from Heaven and to show himself; otherwise, they will never believe.
 - They are essentially telling God how and what He should do. Last time I checked telling God what to do wasn’t a good idea 😊.
 - **Why would Jesus never respond when people would ask Him to “prove” Himself at their request?**
- Even on the cross, Jesus forgave those who were persecuting him.
 - Luke 23:34a
 - “And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
 - After everything that they did to Him, Jesus still showed His true grace, compassion and His mercy. Even upon the sinners of the world that were crucifying Him.
 - **There is so much power in this statement that Jesus made, Jesus can and will forgive anyone.**
- The criminal who received salvation because he acknowledged his sins and had faith in Jesus Christ. | Luke 23:39-43
 - **Read Luke 23:39-43**
 - **What did the criminal who believed understand that the other did not?**
 - This act shows us that Jesus’ redemption was for everyone even the worst of the sinners.
 - This criminal confessed his sins.

- While he didn't list all of his past sins, he acknowledged that he was his a sinner and Jesus accepted that.
 - This criminal showed his belief in Jesus Christ.
 - **He was also likely the last to become a believer while Jesus was still alive.**
 - **What else do we learn about Jesus from the salvation of the thief on the cross?**
- Jesus's death on the cross | Matthew 27:45-50
 - ***Read Matthew 27:45-50***
 - Jesus was on the cross for a total of 6 hours.
 - 9 am – 3 PM
 - The darkness that came upon the land came at the halfway point or noon.
 - Matthew 27:45
 - “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.”
 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
 - Matthew 27:46b
 - “...Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani? That is, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
 - These words as recorded are in Aramaic and from Psalm 22:1
 - **These are interesting words of Jesus, and we may ask ourselves why God would forsake Jesus?**
 - It was at this moment that Jesus took on the sins of man upon Himself so that He would be the perfect sacrifice.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - “He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
 - **God's wrath was being poured out up him as the penalty for sin was made. Because of this, Jesus was feeling the separation from God.**
 - God used the principle of imputation, which means that Jesus was the substitute for sinners. Jesus was treated as a sinner even though he was sinless.
 - Jesus freely gave up His spirit
 - Jesus had accomplished everything that He had willed to do. He was now ready to give up His Spirit.
 - Mark 23:46
 - “Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit! And having said this he breathed his last.”
 - John 19:30
 - "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”
 - He did this **freely** as no one took it from Him.
 - It wasn't the Romans or the Jews that that forced Jesus to give it up, it was because He chose to do it.
 - **He did it only after knowing that EVERYTHING to fulfill the Scriptures had been completed.** | John 19:28-30
 - ***Read John 19:28-30***
 - **Why is it significant that Jesus freely gave up His Spirit?**

- **Three significant events took place when Christ gave up His Spirit**
 - As Jesus freely gave up His spirit three significant things happened. The splitting of the curtain in the temple, there was an earthquake and the tombs of the saints were opened.
 - The opening of the tombs of the saints is only recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.
 - Matthew 27:51-52
 - “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went in to the holy city and appeared to many.”
 - The earthquake and the tombs were opened
 - Just as the darkness that had come across the land during Jesus’s last hours before His death was ordained by God so was the earthquake.
 - To further demonstrate the significance of His sacrifice God shook the earth.
 - Jesus was not the only one who was raised from the dead. Matthew tells us that that many saints (Christians) were also raised.
 - At Jesus’s death the tombs were opened, but it wasn’t until Jesus had been resurrected that they appeared to many in the city of Jerusalem.
 - The Bible does not give us much detail on this event, but it is likely they were resurrected and given new bodies just as Christ had and would have went on to glory.
 - **The splitting of the veil**
 - **The splitting of the veil in the temple, is God’s way of showing us the new way for man to come to Him.**
 - Also, the Scriptures tell us it was split from the top down demonstrated that this was done by God and not man.
 - This splitting of the curtain was quite significant because its purpose until that moment was to separate the most holy place in the tabernacle.
 - Exodus 26:33
 - “Hang the veil under the clasps and bring the ark of the testimony there behind the veil, so the veil will make a separation for you between the holy place and the most holy place.”
 - Only the high priest could enter into the most holy place behind the veil. The other priests (and ordinary people) were never allowed to come in.
 - In fact, the only time the high priest could come in was once a year for the **purpose of the sin offering.**
 - Hebrews 9:7
 - “But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.”
 - **Jesus Christ entered the most holy place by His blood for our redemption.**
 - Hebrews 9:12

- “He entered the most holy place once for all, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.”
 - **It is amazing how God split this specific veil and its significance in its relation to the new covenant relationship with humanity.**
 - Hebrews 10:19-20
 - “Therefore, brothers, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way He has opened for us through the curtain (that is, His flesh),”
 - **The splitting of His flesh and sacrifice of His blood for our sins began the new covenant relationship with humanity.**
 - Because of this event we all have an equal opportunity and way to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - **What does this tell us about how our RELATIONSHIP with God would change from this point forward?**
- The belief of the centurion in the end. | Mark 15:39
 - We then have the interesting Scripture regarding the centurion who was standing guard by Jesus.
 - This certainly would not have been his first crucifixion. He was a centurion meaning he likely had around 100 soldiers beneath him and was well experienced and had served for many years.
 - He had seen many people die and so he was well aware of what went on and the reactions those being crucified gave.
 - **However, Jesus was different. Jesus’s words and His actions were unique.**
 - Mark 15:39
 - When the centurion, who was standing opposite Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “This man really was God’s Son!”
 - **What do you think the centurion saw in Jesus Christ that attributed to his belief?**
 - This centurion likely was the first believer after the death of Jesus.