

Luke 23:33
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS

- I. An utter rejection.
 - A. First, consider the cross and its form of punishment.
 - 1. While some were tied on to the cross with ropes, Jesus was nailed hands and feet. This broke His body.
 - 2. The suffering of dying on a cross was a tasting of death in the full sense.
 - B. The meaning of death by a cross.
 - C. It was not a mistake that the chief priest cried that He be crucified, rejected as contemptible.
- II. The cross was also God's work and the men (Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, soldiers) were just His instruments.
 - A. Looking at Calvary, one would see three crosses which looked alike, but there was an essential difference.
 - B. God crucified Jesus.
 - 1. First, generally it is God who kills and makes alive (Deut. 33:39) so death is always God's work.
 - 2. And the cross was God declaring that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (II Cor. 5:19).
- III. Now look at the cross from the viewpoint of what Jesus did – He brought the perfect sacrifice.
 - A. Jesus tasted the awfulness of sin's reality, experiencing unspeakable sorrow because of the sin of His own.
 - 1. He was so filled with the sense of sin's awfulness that He gave up Himself (Gal. 2:20).
 - 2. As divine, He could enter death, seeking it in obedient love for God.
 - B. Having given Himself as the perfect sacrifice and tasting the return of light, Jesus could say, "It is finished."
 - 1. Look at the cross in faith and see God's sentence for your sin expressed especially in the three hours of darkness.
 - 2. With this faith see in Jesus on the cross giving the perfect sacrifice for us.