

Great Stories of the Bible - 06/19/22

The Crucifixion

TEXT- John 19:16-27 *Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him,*

INTRO – The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. Without His death on the cross there would be no means of forgiveness and restitution.

I. The Description of the Crucifixion

A. What was a crucifixion

Crucifixion is a method of capital punishment in which the victim is tied or nailed to a large wooden cross or beam and left to hang until eventual death from exhaustion and asphyxiation. It was to be reserved for the worst of criminals, a means of showing extreme contempt for the condemned.

B. The details of Jesus crucifixion:

- He was taken by force
- He was falsely accused
- He was beaten with a cat of nine tails
- He was mocked – They put on robe on Him and a crown of thorns
- He carried His cross to Golgotha
- He was nailed to the cross
- He willingly gave His life for you and me

Matthew 26:53 *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

II. The Significance of the Crucifixion

A. Its correlation to the gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-3 *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

B. A vicarious sacrifice -Jesus took our place

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

By the vicarious death of the Lord Jesus Christ, we mean that He, having no cause of death in Himself, voluntarily went into death on behalf of men, whose sin merited the righteous wrath of God.

The doctrine of the vicarious death is associated with several of the fundamental doctrines of Scripture,

- The perfect sinlessness of Christ,
- The fact of sin in man,
- The righteousness of God, who must punish sin,
- The perfection of the man who avails himself to Christ's death
- The resurrection of Christ.

Isaiah 53:1-11 *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant . . .*

C. The fulfillment of Scripture prophecy

John 19:36-37 *For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.*

Isaiah 53 - Despised by the world even the Jews, He opened not His mouth, beaten beyond recognition

Psalm 22 – Forsaken by the Father, Mocked, I thirst, cast lots for His garment, not a bone broken

Psalm 41 – Betrayed by a friend

Zechariah 11:12 – Sold for thirty pieces of silver

If you were to look at Rembrandt's painting of The Three Crosses, your attention would be drawn first to the center cross on which Jesus died. Then as you would look at the crowd gathered around the foot of that cross, you'd be impressed by the various facial expressions and actions of the people involved in the awful crime of crucifying the Son of God. Finally, your eyes would drift to the edge of the painting and catch sight of another figure, almost hidden in the shadows. Art critics say this is a representation of Rembrandt himself, for he recognized that by his sins he helped nail Jesus to the cross.

III. The Result of the Crucifixion

A. Atonement was made

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1 Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

John 1:29 *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

B. Salvation is offered to all

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

C. Those who believe are born into His family

John 1:12-13 *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man **but of God***

D. Born again believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

E. Christian can live a victorious life

Romans 6:6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

1 Corinthians 2:2 *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

1 Corinthians 1:23 *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;*

CONCL- Without imputation of God's righteousness all men will die and go to hell. Because of the crucifixion of Christ and our faith in His substitutionary death we can have eternal life at the moment we believe.

What is crucifixion? A medical doctor provides a physical description:

The cross is placed on the ground and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The soldier feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement. The cross is then lifted into place. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain--the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again, he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of his feet. As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down against the rough timber. Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. It is now almost over--the loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level--the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues--the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues. . . Finally he can allow his body to die.

All this the Bible records with the simple words, "And they crucified Him." (Mark 15:24). What wondrous love is this?