

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eleven

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Scripture reading: Mark 15:25; Matt. 27:34-44; Luke 23:32-43

Burden to Impart:

The crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus were by no means an accidental tragedy. This was a very crucial step in God's plan which was foreknown and foreordained in eternity past according to God's determined counsel (Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8).

Although God foresaw that man would sin against Him, rebel, and forsake Him, His love and purpose for man remained unchanged. He would provide a way for man to be forgiven and cleansed of his sin and be able to receive the divine life. However, because of God's righteousness, there could be no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. God Himself would pay the great price for man's redemption. God Himself, in the person of the Son, would provide His own sinless and holy blood in order to become the substitute and sacrifice for man.

Memory Verse: "Who Himself carried up our sins in His body onto the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Facts to Teach:

1. The Lord's sufferings on the cross can be divided into two periods of three hours each. In this lesson we will see the sufferings of our Lord and the events that took place from unrighteous and wicked men during the first three hours. In the next lesson we will look at His sufferings on the cross during the last three hours.
2. According to the Old Testament prophets, the coming Savior would come the first time to die for the sins of God's people and would come the second time in power and glory to bring in His kingdom. The Jews had no understanding regarding their Messiah's first coming, which would be to suffer and to die for redemption.
3. According to the Jewish way of execution, criminals were stoned to death. This was a quick death. Jesus, however, died according to the Roman way of execution, a shameful, painful, and cruel way in which the hands and feet were nailed to a cross. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that His hands and feet would be pierced (Psa. 22:16).
4. At the third hour (9 a.m.) Jesus was crucified on a hill called Golgotha, or Calvary (Mark 15:22; Matt. 27:33, note 331).
5. The soldiers offered Him wine mingled with gall but He would not drink it. This would have drugged Him and reduced His pain and suffering.
6. He was crucified between two criminals, for He was counted by the people to also be a criminal. This fulfilled the Scriptures in Isaiah 53:12.
7. The soldiers took away His clothes and cast lots for His garments (John 19:23-24), again fulfilling the Scriptures (Psalm 22:18).
8. He was mocked by the people who passed by, the chief priests, and also the two criminals who were crucified with Him. They told Him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" "He saved others, Himself He cannot save!" "He is King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross and we will believe on Him" (Matt. 27:39-44).
9. He did not get angry with them or curse them. He only prayed to God that their sins would be forgiven, for they did not know what they were doing (Luke 23:34). If He had come down, the Lord Jesus would have had no way to save them or us.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eleven (continued)

10. Although the two thieves who were crucified beside the Lord Jesus both reproached Him on the cross, one of them later repented and asked Jesus to remember him when He entered into His kingdom. The loving Savior forgave him and told him something even more gracious than he had asked. He told him that he would be with Him that very day in Paradise (Luke 23:39-43).

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Songs for Lesson Eleven

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It."

G D
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins,
D⁷ G
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins.
C
Jesus died upon the cross,
G
Yes, He suffered pain and loss;
D D⁷ G
Jesus died upon the cross for all my sins.

Jesus died upon the cross for you and me,
Jesus died upon the cross for you and me.
Jesus died for you and me
So that He could set us free!
Jesus died upon the cross for you and me.

Hymns, #988; suggested tune: Hymns, #841.

G Em
Merciful and loving,
C D
Suff'ring pain and loss,
G
All for us, the sinners,
A⁷ D⁷
Going to the cross;
G
Tasting death for all men,
C G
Dying for our sins;
This is Christ the Savior,
C D⁷ G
We give praise to Him.

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

(Story for Lesson 11)

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS (1)

Memory verse: Who Himself carried up our sins in His body onto the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

1 Peter 2:24

There are many mountains in the Bible. Over five true stories happened on one special mountain. One was some four thousand years ago which tells about Abraham and Isaac. God spoke of "that mountain" where he was to go. Abraham saw Mount Moriah from a distance.

Do you know what God asked Abraham to do? (A most dreadful, dreadful thing!) Even against the laws that God had given them to follow. He is God and always does His perfect will. He said to Abraham, "Take now thy only son Isaac, who you love, and go to Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon the mountain that I will show you (Gen. 22:2).

Could any father do that? I would say, "No!" But Abraham obeyed God. It was very hard. Abraham believed that God would raise his son from the dead. So, he and Isaac walked up Mount Moriah together. Isaac obeyed his father just as Abraham obeyed God and let his father tie him to the altar. Then as Abraham lifted up the knife to kill his son, the angel of the Lord held back Abraham's hand and told him not to harm the boy. Abraham had passed God's test. As Abraham looked around he saw a great sight. There in the thicket (thorn bushes) was a beautiful ram, caught by his horns. Instead of his son Isaac, Abraham offered up the ram on the altar.

About two thousand years later, on that same Mount Moriah, also called Calvary, another Father offered up His only Son. It was also a dreadful, dreadful thing to do. More terrible than what God asked Abraham to do. This Father was God. His only Son was Jesus, our Lord. This time, however, no angel would stop the killing of His obedient Son.

Long ago Abraham had told his son that God would provide Himself a sacrifice. Now was the time. There was no one else and no other way, than what God was going to do. For God to accept this sacrifice, it had to be a perfect lamb. Only the Lord Jesus, His Son, was perfect.

Why did God chose to offer up His spotless Son in such a dreadful way? It was to show how dark and heavy sin is. Also, how evil and wicked were the hearts of His own people. All the high religious leaders and all the rulers

together killed the Son of God. No crime could be worse. Although they were all filled with darkness, the heavens and the earth could see how bright the Lord Jesus shined. Out from that darkness He shined more and more, as pure gold.

After arresting Him, they broke every law in judging Him. No one could find any fault with Him, so they lied about Him. Then they beat Him almost to death. No one showed Him any mercy yet He did not answer back one word. This angry mob led Jesus through the streets and up Mount Calvary to put Him to death.

There the Roman guards laid Him on a heavy cross and fastened Him down to the cross with large iron nails through His hands and feet. He called out to God for them, crying, "Father forgive them". Then many soldiers raised the cross and dropped it into a deep hole. They took His garments and gambled over His robe, so they would not have to tear it. They cared more for the robe than for Him. They were hard and rough and showed Him no mercy. He prayed for His persecutors and reminded His Father that they did not know what they were doing. And though they were cruel, he was most kind. He comforted the thief on the other cross, who repented, and forgave him for the mocking words he had spoken to Him earlier in the day. He also told him that he would be with Him that same day in Paradise.

The Lord Jesus' mother stood at the foot of the cross. She needed Him— He was still her oldest son. He spoke kindly to her and prepared for her days ahead, by giving her to His youngest disciple, John, to take care of her. John took her from that time into his own home.

During the first three hours that the Lord was on the cross, the priests kept mocking Him and telling Him to come down from the cross if He was the Son of God. Also the soldiers showed no mercy and laughed at His dreadful suffering. How could He endure and have the strength to go on bearing it all? Long ago an angel from God had stopped Abraham from killing his son Isaac. But now, for the Lord Jesus, no angel came — not even His Father God.

This beautiful Ram (and perfect Lamb) was truly caught in the thicket (thorn bushes) of their cruelty.

Only His great Love kept Him on the cross to bear in His body all that hate and all of our sins.