

The King Revealed - From Unknown to Throne

What Does the King Say from The Cross? Part 5

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Introduction

Crucifixion was a public event that was used to instill fear in people to keep them from going against Rome.

- It was preceded by a severe whipping and beating that would begin the process of bleeding
- Then four steps that followed:
 - The criminal carried the crossbeam to the place of the execution
 - He was either nailed or tied to the crossbeam while it was on the ground
 - The beam was then raised and fastened to the upright pole
 - A tablet specifying the crime was nailed to the cross for all to see.
- The crowd does not want Jesus just to die, but to also experience this most gruesome form of execution
- He is to be counted among the worst of criminals.

What Does the King Say from The Cross?

Father forgive them...

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". (Luke 23:34)

Luke 23:32-38

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

- As Jesus awaits His death, He turns to the Father in prayer asking that the actions of His enemies be forgiven and therefore, Jesus fulfills His own standard of praying for your enemies.
- Jesus reveals His love and compassion here and models His own instructions on discipleship.
- The mocking continues from the crowd and the soldiers: "Save yourself! Aren't you a King!" One of the criminals even joins in, "Save yourself, and save us too if you really are a King!"
- The irony: they mockingly tell Jesus to save Himself and yet He hangs to save them. His blood shed even for those who made His blood shed.

Why does forgiveness come first?

- Forgiveness is the beginning of restoration
- When you say yes to His forgiveness, you say yes to letting Him restore you.

Today you will be with me...

And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Luke 23:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And he indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This is a beautiful image:

- On one side of Jesus, a criminal who refused to believe, and on the other side there is a criminal who now believes.
- We deserve what we are getting, and the man recognizes his need for a saviour.
- What moves a dying man to trust another dying man for eternal life? The King was revealed to him.
- No resume is presented by the criminal or required of by Jesus.

THIS IS GRACE!

Behold your son...behold your mother...

When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (John 19:26). Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:27)

- Jesus has already cared for both enemies and a new convert
- He turns to set His own house in order—He focuses on His mother
- Jesus is fully in control even on the cross
- Mary, here, sees not her son but her Lord as He cares for her and provides for her while dying for her
- Just in case what Mary saw was a suffering son; Jesus fixed His attention on her, and the result was that she saw a Savior who, though is on a cross, is still in control
 - God will show up just when you are about to forget who He is
- Why John?
 - Perhaps the choice fell on him because he was present at Calvary, he was trustworthy, and he was a native of Judea, not a Galilean, and owned a house nearby to which he could take Mary.
- Where were the others?
 - The loudest are not always the most loyal.

I Thirst...

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst" (John 19:28).

Psalm 69:21

They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

- The reason: to fulfill prophecy
- Atonement: we cannot understand the Gospel, Jesus, or Christianity if we do not understand atonement.
- The evil we see in the world is the same evil that is in us. And so, for God to rid the world of evil would require Him to get rid of humanity.
- Unless someone perfect and Holy can take the evil of humanity upon themselves and die in their place.

Jesus dies—the just for the unjust. He dies in place of the unjust person.

- Barabbas represents the position we are all in as a result of Jesus' death: we are able to live because He died.
- Those who know what Jesus accomplished on the cross realize that Barabbas' story is our story. Jesus does not complain as He bore the cross for the murderer and for us.
- No words of protest were uttered from Jesus about injustice as He hung on Calvary for us. There was only intercession for those enemies who failed to understand what they had really done. There was only forgiveness.

Why have you forsaken me?

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

- This is the only time where Jesus addresses God without calling Him "Father"
 - An expression of separation from God because He was bearing sin.
- Jesus was quoting from Psalm 22:1.

2Corinthians 5:21

He who knew no sin became sin.

Into Your hands...

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. (Luke 23:46).

As darkness covers the land and the veil is torn, Jesus utters words, from Psalm 31:5 reflecting the trust that He has in the Father: "into your hands I commit my spirit". Jesus has now given humanity access to a right relationship with God.

It is finished...

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30).

What was finished?

- Prophecy
- Our debt
- Wrath and judgement of God.
 - "let this cup pass from" → the cup was now emptied.

Conclusion

The cross is an event that needs to be absorbed, not just described.

What if the tragedy of Good Friday, isn't the fact that Jesus died but it's not knowing who He is and why He died? What if the real tragedy is not accepting what He freely wants to give to you?

- His grace, His life, His love, and His forgiveness in exchange for your misery, your sin, and your brokenness.
- This isn't just something that happened 2000 years ago. His blood that was shed 2000 years ago was shed to cover and pay for every sin, every hurt, and pain, past present and future.

The cross stands high above your past, above what you have done, above what was done to you, above the pain and the hurt, above the things buried. The cross shows how far humanity will go in sin and how far God will go to save them from it.