



Lesson 66 – Calvary

Based on Matthew 27:31-53; Mark 15:20-38; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-30.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Luke 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called _____, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

2) Where and why did Jesus suffer?

Hebrews 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might _____ the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

For transgression of the law of God, Adam and Eve were banished from Eden. Christ, our substitute, was to suffer without the boundaries of Jerusalem. He died outside the gate, where felons and murderers were executed.

3) What did Paul have to say about it?

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the _____ of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

As Jesus passed the gate of Pilate's court, the cross which had been prepared for Barabbas was laid upon His bruised and bleeding shoulders. Two companions of Barabbas were to suffer death at the same time with Jesus, and upon them also crosses were placed. The Saviour's burden was too heavy for Him in His weak and suffering condition.

4) Who was ordered to carry His cross?

Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one _____, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

Simon had heard of Jesus. His sons were believers in the Saviour, but he himself was not a disciple. The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden.

5) Who were following Jesus?

Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of _____, which also bewailed and lamented him.

Some of them have seen Him before. Some have carried to Him their sick and suffering ones. Some have themselves been healed. The story of the scenes that have taken place is related. They wonder at the hatred of the crowd toward Him for whom their own hearts are melting and ready to break. And notwithstanding the action of the maddened throng, and the angry words of the priests and rulers, these women give expression to their sympathy. As Jesus falls fainting beneath the cross, they break forth into mournful wailing.

6) How did Jesus respond to their grief?

Luke 23:28-31 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, _____ not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the _____, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the _____, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a _____ tree, what shall be done in the dry?

This was the only thing that attracted Christ's attention. Although full of suffering, while bearing the sins of the world, He was not indifferent to the expression of grief. He looked upon these women with tender compassion. They were not believers in Him; He knew that they were not lamenting Him as one sent from God but were moved by feelings of human pity.



Christ looked forward to the time of Jerusalem's destruction. In that terrible scene, many of those who were now weeping for Him were to perish with their children.

7) Where were the Disciples while all this was happening?

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be _____ abroad.

8) What happened next?

Mark 15:24-25 And when they had crucified him, they parted his _____, casting _____ upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

For the Jews of that time, the first hour of the day was at the sunrise. The sun came up around 6 AM, therefore, Jesus was placed on the cross about 9 AM (the third hour)

Arriving at the place of execution, the prisoners were bound to the instruments of torture. The two thieves wrestled in the hands of those who placed them on the cross; but Jesus made no resistance. The mother of Jesus, supported by John the beloved disciple, had followed the steps of her Son to Calvary. She had seen Him fainting under the burden of the cross and had longed to place a supporting hand beneath His wounded head, and to bathe that brow which had once been pillowed upon her bosom. But she was not permitted this mournful privilege.

9) Instead of cursing, how did Jesus react to the nails going into His hands and feet?

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, _____ them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

The Saviour made no murmur of complaint. His face remained calm and serene, but great drops of sweat stood upon His brow. There was no pitying hand to wipe the death dew from His face, nor words of sympathy and unchanging fidelity to stay His human heart. While the soldiers were doing their fearful work, Jesus prayed for His enemies.

10) What was Jesus accomplishing?

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the _____ of _____ freely.

That prayer of Christ for His enemies embraced the world. It took in every sinner that had lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. Upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Son of God. To all, forgiveness is freely offered.

11) What was placed on the cross that Jesus was crucified on?

Luke 23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE _____ OF THE _____.

As soon as Jesus was nailed to the cross, it was lifted by strong men, and with great violence thrust into the place prepared for it. This caused the most intense agony to the Son of God. Pilate then wrote an inscription in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and placed it upon the cross, above the head of Jesus.

12) What had Jesus' accusers said before Pilate?

John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but _____.

This was an acknowledgment of the allegiance of the Jews to the Roman power. It declared that whoever might claim to be the King of Israel would be judged by them worthy of death. The priests had overreached themselves. When they were plotting the death of Christ, Caiaphas had declared it



expedient that one man should die to save the nation. Now their hypocrisy was revealed. In order to destroy Christ, they had been ready to sacrifice even their national existence.

13) Were the Jews happy with the Sign Pilate had put up?

John 19:21-22 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he _____, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have _____.

A higher power than Pilate or the Jews had directed the placing of that inscription above the head of Jesus. In the providence of God, it was to awaken thought, and investigation of the Scriptures. The place where Christ was crucified was near to the city. Thousands of people from all lands were then at Jerusalem, and the inscription declaring Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah would come to their notice. It was a living truth, transcribed by a hand that God had guided.

14) What prophecy was fulfilled?

Psalms 22:16-18 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the _____ have inclosed me: they pierced my _____ and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my _____ among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

15) What did Jesus hear the soldiers say?

John 19:24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not _____ it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my _____ among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

16) What did the Psalmist say would happen?

Psalms 69:20-21 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take _____, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me _____ to drink.

To those who suffered death by the cross, it was permitted to give a stupefying potion, to deaden the sense of pain. This was offered to Jesus; but when He had tasted it, He refused it. He would receive nothing that could becloud His mind. His faith must keep fast hold upon God. This was His only strength. To becloud His senses would give Satan an advantage.

17) What jeer did they revile Jesus with?

Luke 23:37 And saying, _____ thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

The enemies of Jesus vented their rage upon Him as He hung upon the cross. Priests, rulers, and scribes joined with the mob in mocking the dying Saviour. At the baptism and at the transfiguration the voice of God had been heard proclaiming Christ as His Son. Again, just before Christ's betrayal, the Father had spoken, witnessing to His divinity. But now the voice from heaven was silent. No testimony in Christ's favor was heard. Alone He suffered abuse and mockery from wicked men.

18) What similar words came from Satan?

Matthew 4:3,6 And when the tempter came to him, he said, _____ thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread... ...And saith unto him, _____ thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

The archfiend and his hosts were co-operating with the priests and rulers. The teachers of the people had stimulated the ignorant mob to pronounce judgment against One upon whom many of them had never looked, until urged to bear testimony against Him. Priests, rulers, Pharisees, and the hardened rabble were confederated together in a satanic frenzy. Religious rulers united with Satan and his angels. They were doing his bidding.



19) What else did they say?

Matthew 27:41-43 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; _____ he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will _____ him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

In their mockery of the Saviour, the men who professed to be the expounders of prophecy were repeating the very words which Inspiration had foretold they would utter upon this occasion. Yet in their blindness they did not see that they were fulfilling the prophecy.

20) What lone ray of light did Jesus have on Calvary?

Luke 23:40-43 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due _____ of our deeds: but this man hath done _____ amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, _____ me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Both the men who were crucified with Jesus had at first railed upon Him; and one under his suffering only became more desperate and defiant. But not so with his companion. This man was not a hardened criminal; he had been led astray by evil associations, but he was less guilty than many of those who stood beside the cross reviling the Saviour. He had seen and heard Jesus and had been convicted by His teaching.

Men may exercise power over Jesus' human body. They may pierce the holy temples with the crown of thorns. They may strip from Him His raiment, and quarrel over its division. But they cannot rob Him of His power to forgive sins. In dying He bears testimony to His own divinity and to the glory of the Father. His ear is not heavy that it cannot hear, neither His arm shortened that it cannot save. It is His royal right to save unto the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.

21) What prophecy did Isaiah tell us about Christ?

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was _____ with the _____; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

22) What did Jesus tell His mother and John?

John 19:26-27 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy _____! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy _____! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

John understood Christ's words and accepted the trust. He at once took Mary to his home, and from that hour cared for her tenderly. O pitiful, loving Saviour; amid all His physical pain and mental anguish, He had a thoughtful care for His mother! He had no money with which to provide for her comfort; but He was enshrined in the heart of John, and He gave His mother to him as a precious legacy. Thus, He provided for her that which she most needed, the tender sympathy of one who loved her because she loved Jesus.

23) What amazing thing was happening in nature while this was all happening?

Luke 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a _____ over all the earth until the ninth hour.

In that thick darkness God's presence was hidden. He makes darkness His pavilion and conceals His glory from human eyes. God and His holy angels were beside the cross. The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. Had His glory flashed forth from the cloud, every human beholder would have been destroyed. And in that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence. He trod the wine press alone, and of the people there was none with Him.



The silence of the grave seemed to have fallen upon Calvary. A nameless terror held the throng that was gathered about the cross. The cursing and reviling ceased in the midst of half-uttered sentences. Men, women, and children fell prostrate upon the earth. Vivid lightnings occasionally flashed forth from the cloud and revealed the cross and the crucified Redeemer. Priests, rulers, scribes, executioners, and the mob, all thought that their time of retribution had come.

24) What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour?

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou _____ me?

At the ninth hour the darkness lifted from the people but still enveloped the Saviour. It was a symbol of the agony and horror that weighed upon His heart. No eye could pierce the gloom that surrounded the cross, and none could penetrate the deeper gloom that enshrouded the suffering soul of Christ. The angry lightnings seemed to be hurled at Him as He hung upon the cross.

25) How did the people react?

Mark 15:35-36 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth _____. And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a _____, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

The spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise.

26) What happened next?

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I _____ my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him. He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.

27) What happened in the Temple while this was happening?

Mark 15:38 And the veil of the temple was _____ in _____ from the top to the bottom.

It was the hour of the evening sacrifice. The lamb representing Christ had been brought to be slain. Clothed in his significant and beautiful dress, the priest stood with lifted knife, as did Abraham when he was about to slay his son. With intense interest the people were looking on. But the earth trembles and quakes; for the Lord Himself draws near. With a rending noise the inner veil of the temple is torn from top to bottom by an unseen hand, throwing open to the gaze of the multitude a place once filled with the presence of God.

All is terror and confusion. The priest is about to slay the victim; but the knife drops from his nerveless hand, and the lamb escapes. Type has met antitype in the death of God's Son. The great sacrifice has been made. The way into the holiest is laid open. A new and living way is prepared for all.

28) What different ministry would Jesus go on to do?

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he _____ in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal _____ for us.