**The Words of The Lord Jesus on The Cross.**

**Easter 2024 03 31 Luke 23v33-47, John 19,20**

**Introduction. What do you expect to happen if you are naughty? If we are naughty we expect to be punished. We often disobey parents, teachers. Do you lie, hate, steal, covet; are you selfish? etc. God** has kindly given us His 10 Commandments which also show us that we have not loved God as we should. **We must all admit we are sinners** **and that our sinfulness deserves His punishment.**

**What if we are punished for something we did not do?** We feel very upset, angry and aggrieved. **Not fair.**

**Today we are especially thinking of Someone Who was punished for sins He did not commit.** **VA1** In fact, punished for billions of sins of millions of people. But He did not see this as unfair because, out of love, He chose to do this for sinners like you and me.

**Today we are worshipping God – It is Easter Sunday.** That glorious Day when the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead, about 2,000 years ago. We call Sunday **The Lord’s Day,**  We attend Church, Sunday School, Bible and College Class to worship Him as the Saviour and Lord. **Are you worshipping the Risen Saviour as your Saviour and Lord today?**

**Remember,** this why He came to earth. The eternal Son of God – **God –** Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Immanuel** – God with us. Perfect God and Perfect Man.

**2**

**We read in the Bible** how The Lord allowed Himself to be arrested, falsely accused, tried and condemned to death by crucifixion. Cruelly nailed to a cross to suffer in great agony and die.

**Why did He do this so willingly?**

**It was because He loved us so much and wanted to save us - to take the guilt of our sin away.**

**John 3v16** speaks of the Saviour’s love for sinners such as us. “***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.” VA2***

**He was not guilty of any sin of His own**. He kept all the Commandments from the day He was born. **So, being perfect**

**He should not have been put to death.**

It is us who should be punished because we have sinned.

***“For the wages of sin is death,”* VA3**

But the love and mercy of God completes this verse

***“But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6v23.**

**So, now let us consider for a few minutes what happened as the Saviour suffered on the cross.**  We will do this by reminding ourselves of some of the words which were spoken by the Lord and by others at the time, nearly 2,000 years ago.

**Firstly: - Can anyone tell me what is missing**

**from my picture of Calvary? Why have I not put the shape of the Lord on the central cross? No Idols, Images of God. No pictures, or crucifix**

**We will now consider some of the words said by the Saviour, and others, as He was dying on the cross.**

**3**

**1st Statement -** [**Luke 23:34**](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=luke+23:34) **VA4 “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”**

The Lord Jesus was experiencing the agony of ancient Roman crucifixion. Nailed to a cross and hung to die. The most humiliating, cruel, and wretched way to die.

**It is amazing** to think that the Lord Jesus, the Almighty Son of God, **did not defend His own innocence** or even return **one angry word** to His hateful accusers.

The Lord, had the power to come down off of the cross **but,** **He could not** because He had come to earth from Heaven **specifically** to die to save sinners like us.

The Lord Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy that was foretold by Isaiah, some 700 years earlier. **VA5**

**“*He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.*” Isaiah 53v7.**

As a perfect man, without sin, He speaks with love,

grace and mercy towards those who hated Him, those who a few hours earlier had cried out, ***“Crucify Him, Crucify Him”***. **Those who** had insisted that Pilate should release Barabbas and that He, although innocent, be crucified.

**Those who**, a week earlier, had greeted Him as Messiah with the words, ***“Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”*** **Matthew 21v9**

This prayer from the cross **confirmed that the Lord Jesus was the God of mercy and love** towards sinners like us. **We see how He loved even His enemies.**

**Stop here, Ask, “Do I love Christ or hate Him?”**

**4**

**The unbelieving Religious Leaders shouted, “*He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God.” VA6***

**The soldiers shouted,**

***“If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.”***

**The crowd shouted.**

**The Lord knew that some of these would repent and believe some 40 days later, on the Day of Pentecost.**

**What wonderful love is shown to each of us!**

**Read John 3v16** speaks of the Saviour’s love for sinners such as us.

**Do you respond with love in your heart towards the Saviour? Do you believe that He died to save you?**

**2nd Statement – Luke 23:43 There were two men**, hanging next to Him on that fateful day,who had been judged guilty of their crimes. Maybe, as well as stealing, they had murdered! Their crime was thought worthy of the most severe punishment – death by crucifixion.

**Both men spoke to the Lord. One railed** on the Lord. ***saying, ‘If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us?’ VA7* But the other criminal was humbled**, recognising that he was hanging on a cross for his crime: receiving the just reward for his sin.

He, **recognising who Christ was**, answered the other criminal and rebuked him, saying, ***VA8***

***“Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.” Luke 23v40,41***

**5**

He publicly acknowledged that he deserved to die on the cross, but the Lord Jesus did not.

With faith and repentance in his heart, he said to Jesus,

***‘Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.’ VA9***

Meekly, he turned his face to the Saviour and with all sincerity of heart and soul, he asked to be remembered when the Lord rose again and entered into His Kingdom. He sincerely believed that Jesus was who He said He was. **It was clear to him** that as Jesus was the perfect Son of

God, that He was dying for the sin of others, for crimes He, Himself, was not guilty of. **but,** at that very moment, was dying for sinners like him.

And Jesus said unto him, ***“Verily I say unto thee, Today, shalt thou be with Me in paradise.” VA10***

**How wonderful** **that the Lord showed love, compassion, and mercy to this repentant thief.** We can be encouraged to know that even this criminal could be forgiven by the Lord Jesus.

How the Lord responded to this criminal brings to our attention something we must learn from today.

**No matter how bad our sin**, there is opportunity for salvation and forgiveness from the Saviour—even if we repent and believe in the final breaths of our life.

**How wonderful! But do not wait until then.**

Now is **your** opportunity to come to the Saviour.

**Let us note –** **One believed and one rejected. One was saved, the other lost for eternity. VA11**

**Christ died for the sin of one but not the other! Did He die for you?**

**6**

**3rd Statement - “Woman, behold thy son.” VA 12 John 19:26**

We note that, even though He was dying an agonising death, the **Lord Jesus had loving compassion** for His mother, Mary.

**Jesus saw his mother, Mary,** standing by John and knew all her cares and griefs. So, He established a new relationship between His beloved mother and His beloved disciple, John. He said to her, ***"Woman, behold thy son”,*** for whom, from now on, you must have a motherly affection, and to John, ***"Behold thy mother”***, to whom you must pay a sonly duty. **“Look after her for Me.”**

And so, from that never to be forgotten hour,

John took her to his own home.

**This reminds us that the Saviour has loving concern for us and cares and provides for all who trust Him.**

**4th Statement - “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”** [**Matthew 27:46**](http://www.christianity.com/bible/search/?ver=niv&q=matthew+27:46)

**VA13**

These words give us an insight into the suffering and agony of the Saviour as He took our punishment.

Because the Saviour had taken upon Himself the guilt of our sin, His Father had to separate from Him while His Holy wrath for our sin was poured out on Him. **This is the wrath that we should rightly suffer and experience for eternity, separated from God.**

**The Saviour was forsaken so that we do not have to be.**

This was a fulfilment of OT scripture from [Psalm 22](http://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?ver=niv&q=psalms+22), ***"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"***

**7**

**5th Statement - “It is finished!” VA14 John 19:30**

Jesus Christ paid for our sins once and for all time. The power and control of sin in our lives is broken.

**He set us free from the bondage of our sin.**

The Lord Jesus, in saying ***“It is finished”,*** declared that the debt owed by each of us to our Creator on account of Adam’s sin is finally and forever dealt with.

**He gave up His life. No one took it from Him.**

**On the third day He would take back His life. Risen.**

The Saviour, by saying ***“It is finished”,*** not only took away man’s sin, but that it is removed as far as the east is from the west. **Note – East and West do not meet.**

**For it is finished,** done, signed and sealed

because of the Saviours’ shed blood.

He took upon Himself the wages of sin. Our sin.

**God and His Holy Law is fully satisfied.**

When Jesus said, ***“It is finished”,*** [**John 19v30**](http://www.christianity.com/bible/bible.php?ver=niv&q=john+19:30) He brought about the end and fulfilment of all the Old Testament prophecies, symbols, and foreshadowing Him and relating to Himself.

**No more sacrifices. Once, and for all time.**

**But how do we obtain forgiveness?**

**How can we be covered by this finished work and be saved from carrying the guilt of our own sin?**

**We must come like the thief and the Centurion.**

**In repentance and faith.**

 **8**

**Roman Centurion’s Statement.**

**“Certainly, this was a righteous man.” Luke 23v47**

**“Surely, this was The Son of God” VA15**

**This Centurion** was aware of Christ’s

triumphant entry into Jerusalem a week ago.

Attended the trial before Pilate, responsible for taking Christ to the cross and supervising His crucifixion.

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He saw how the Lord responded.

 Like a lamb going to slaughter.

The Saviour showed no resistance.

No venom in His thoughts or response.

We should emulate the Lord

and manage our own anger and response to others.

The Centurion heard the words of Christ on the cross.

**He believed. He repented. He was saved.**

**We have seen the love of Christ as He suffered and died on the cruel cross. We have heard the repentance of the thief, and that of the Centurion.**

**We remember that on the 3rd day the Saviour rose again from the dead as a successful Saviour.**

**Will you turn to Him now in faith, with a repentant heart, seeking forgiveness?**

**Behold, now is the Day of Salvation. VA16**

**Come to the Lord Jesus Christ today and be saved.**