

## Episode #514 Easter 2019 1: On the Cross

I. The death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ were the pivotal events in the history of God's work to redeem fallen mankind. All history before these events was marked by man's failure in spite of all God did for them. After these events is marked by God's success in spite of all man can do against Him. Our salvation was granted to us by these great events.

II. The crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ is presented in Luke 23:26-38.

III. Luke 23:26-32. On the road to the cross.

- A. Verse 26. The Lord started out carrying His Own cross. John 19:17. The Lord had already been beaten and abused, so His continuing must have been impossible. Tradition says He stumbled, though the Bible says nothing about this. Cyrene is in Africa, but since there were Jews from Cyrene in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5, 10), it is quite likely that Simon is one of them.
- B. Verse 27. His friends woke up to a terrible surprise when they learned of His arrest and that the show trial was already over! Hated criminals were mocked on the way to the cross. Notice the difference here. It was the leaders who hated Him!
- C. Verse 28. He suggests they are weeping for the wrong people!
- D. Verse 29. This would be when the Roman general Titus came to Jerusalem and destroyed it some forty years later. The horrors that would happen would be so bad they would wish they never even had children than for them to experience them.
- E. Verse 30. Quoting Hosea 10:8. Originally of Israel when Assyria would conquer the land. Now, the Lord applies this to the coming Roman destruction.
- F. Verse 31. A proverb of the day? He was probably the green wood, the Living Word Himself. The dry wood then were the rebels against Rome. If the Romans would burn Him, Who never rebelled against them at all, how much more the people of the city after their rebellion? They would destroy them without mercy.
- G. Verse 32. Two criminals were led with him. Greek *kakourgoi* = evildoers. Not the same as the "robbers," Greek *lestai*, of Matthew 27:38. They were crucified later after the dividing of His garments and so forth.

IV. Luke 23:33. The crucifixion.

- A. Calvary meant "A Skull," not a beautiful word. Probably means a human skull had once been found there making it an unclean place. No sign it was a "hill," as is commonly assumed.
- B. The crucifixion was by nailing, though not through the soft part of the hand. The Romans had worked out just the right place for the nails not to tear out and the victim not to bleed to death. The cross was pulled up in the air with the help of ropes.
- C. This was both humiliation, and an advertising display, "This is what happens to one who rebels against Rome."
- D. Naked, helpless, in agony, forced to push up against the nails in the feet in order to breathe, this was a terrible way to die. Yet in spite of the pain, none of this would kill a person. They would die after a long time from exposure. A brilliant torture!

V. Luke 23:34-38. On the cross.

- A. Verse 34. Who could forgive such an unspeakable wrong? Yet Christ did! The men who did this to Him were given a second chance: Acts 2 and 3. The garment that they cast lots for was the undergarment. It was the soldiers who did this: other gospels.

- B. Verse 35. Notice it was the rulers who sneered, not the common people, who generally loved Him. Notice that even in their mockery they admit His genuine works in saving many from diseases, etc. Chosen = *eklektos*. He is the Elect One of God!
- C. Verse 36. The soldiers get in on the act. Sour wine was the “kindness” they offered Him as a drink. This would keep the sufferer alive, while mocking Him once again.
- D. Verse 37. Many accuse Jews of being “Christ-killers.” But what about these Romans? He is Christ, but of course did not respond to their orders! They probably assumed He really set Himself up against Rome. But Pilate knew He did not!
- E. Verse 38. This was the place where charges were posted. Important to the advertising aspect of the cross. Notice that this is no real crime, since Rome allowed peoples to have their own, local kings. This was the charge men saw. But God saw a very different charge. He saw your sins and my sins on the head of the One hanging there that day. His death bought our salvation, praise God!

VI. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was indeed terrible suffering for God’s Son to go through, but many others suffered the same torture. Yet Christ’s death was unique in this: that God placed on Him the sins of us all. He died so that we would not have to. He died the death I deserved: hanging naked on a board, humiliated and forsaken. When we believe in that death on our behalf, our sins’ penalty is paid by His death, so that we can live in new life. Praise God for the unmatched gift of His Son!