

Five Views from the Cross

Galatians 2:20

INTRODUCTION:

A. Bible Readings:

1. Lesson Texts:

- a. **Matthew 27:26** – “. . . And when he [Pilate] had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.”
- b. **John 19:17-18** – “And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.”
- c. **Matthew 27:35-37** – “Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: ‘They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.’
36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.
37 And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

2. We have received a great benefit as a result of what took place just outside the walls of Jerusalem on April 7, AD 30

- a. **Galatians 2:20** – “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - Listening friend . . . **This is not a matter to be taken lightly.**
- b. **Galatians 6:14** – “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
- c. **Galatians 5:24** – “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

3. Let us travel back to that day in history.

B. Passover was a busy time in Jerusalem. Every Jew wanted to be in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover.. The situation was so volatile that the ruling Romans reinforced the guard for the occasion.

C. With a crowd that large it is only reasonable to assume that there was a mass of people at Calvary for such a public spectacle as a crucifixion.

1. They were like any group of people . . . They migrated to the action spot.
2. Something critical to all humankind was taking place outside one of the city gates of Jerusalem.

D. The victim that day is the one we claim as our Savior on this day.

- E. He had gone through the mockery of a trial . . . Actually three Roman gatherings and three Jewish gatherings. (Annas . . . Caiphas . . . Sanhedrin . . . Pilate . . . Herod . . . Pilate.
1. He had gone without food and rest.
 2. He had . . .
 - a. He had been hit with fists.
 - b. He had been slapped.
 - c. He had been spat upon.
 - d. He had had his beard pulled out. Isaiah 50:6
 - e. He had endured the sharp head pain caused by the crown of thorns.
 - f. The flesh on His back had been shredded during the Roman scourging.
 - g. The blood loss left him feeling weak.
 3. The shameful procession to the place of execution revealed the raw nature of people whose lives had not been tempered by God's love.
 4. While Jesus was being crucified, hanging on the cross between two thieves, awaiting the death that was an inevitable part of crucifixion, the physical pain He was felling must have been excruciating.
 - a. Nonetheless, in the worst physical situation possible, Jesus did not think of Himself . . . He thought of others.
 - b. While He could still see, what did He see from the cross. What were the views from the cross?

JESUS LOOKED AND SAW MISGUIDED PEOPLE.

- A. **Luke 23:34** – “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.”
- B. Concerning the crowd, it is said in **Matthew 27:36** – “And sitting down they watched him there.”
- C. The crowd that gathered there, for the most part, was under the influence of powerful men.
 1. They had been taught to trust the Sanhedrin in such matters.
 2. On this day the Sanhedrin had yielded to the influence of several powerful men.
 3. They had set events in motion that moved so rapidly the people became misguided.
- D. Jesus still loved them and wanted them to experience forgiveness. He took the initiative to forgive those misled people. “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.” **Matthew 27:36**
- E. Jesus looks at us today with a desire that we will know forgiveness.

JESUS LOOKED AND SAW AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WANTED TO GO TO HEAVEN . . . AND ANOTHER ONE WHO DID NOT.

A. **Luke 23:39-43** – “Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”

40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?’

41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’

42 Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’

43 And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”

B. Even in the process of dying, Jesus took time to think of others.

C. Note the difference in the two men:

1. The one who repented was forgiven.
2. The one who did not repent died in his sins.

D. The same is true today.

1. Some will listen and some will not.
2. Some are interested and some are not.
3. Some will obey the gospel and some will not.

E. Let us seek them . . . Let us find them . . . Let us teach them the truth.

JESUS LOOKED AND SAW TWO PEOPLE WHO NEEDED SPECIAL ATTENTION . . . ONE WAS FAMILY . . . THE OTHER WAS A FRIEND.

A. **John 19:25-27** – “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’

27 Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”

B. Jesus saw the broken heart of His mother.

1. He knew how much she loved Him.
2. He also knew that it was the oldest child’s responsibility to care for her.
3. He instructed her to look to John for her needs.

C. Jesus saw His brokenhearted friend, John.

1. It appears that John was Jesus’ closest earthly friend.
2. Jesus knew that John needed a way to demonstrate his love.
3. Even in His hour of pain, Jesus helped others.

D. Let us not be so self-centered that we are blinded to the needs of others. Let us serve . . . Let us minister . . . Let us make a difference.

JESUS LOOKED BACKWARD OVER TIME AND SAW ALL THE FAITHFUL AND RIGHTEOUS THAT WOULD FINALLY BECOME PERMANENTLY CLEANSED THAT DAY.

A. **Hebrews 9:11-15** – “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

B. The righteous people in the Old Testament, through their faithfulness and animal sacrifices, had only paid the interest on the sin debt that they owed.

C. Jesus, in His death, paid and removed the total sin debt for all of the Old Testament faithful . . . and us as well.

JESUS LOOKED FORWARD ACROSS THE PAGES OF TIME AND SAW YOU AND ME.

A. **Hebrews 9:26-28** – “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

B. **Hebrews 9:22** – “. . . And without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

C. **Hebrews 10:19-25** – “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- D. His blood has the cleansing power to reach every sin committed since Genesis 3 when the first sin was committed, to the last sin committed in the future before His return.
1. Eternally speaking . . . Your sins are no match for you.
 2. You cannot cleanse yourself by yourself.
 3. Only by the blood of Christ can you be made clean in God’s sight.
 4. Once you have obeyed the gospel and have been cleansed of every sin you have ever committed . . . Remember this: **Romans 4:7-8** – “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.”

CONCLUSION:

- A. In five views from the cross . . . Jesus saw:
1. Misguided people . . . Religiously taught but religiously lost.
 2. Two thieves . . . and in them He saw one individual who wanted to go to Heaven and one who did not.
 3. Two people who needed special attention . . . One was His mother, the other His best friend.
 4. Looked back over time and saw all the faithful of the past who would finally be fully cleansed that day.
 5. Looked forward across the pages of time and He saw you and me and our need for Him to be where He was on that Friday of Passover week.
- B. **When Jesus was on the cross . . . We were on His mind.**
- C. Jesus cared enough to go to the cross for you . . . Will you care enough to obey His commandments and come to the Heavenly Father through Him?
1 John 5:3 – “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”
- D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**