

## Watching Jesus Die

Text: Matthew 27:11-36

### **I. THE PRAYER BEFORE THE CROSS**

If we are truly able to get the meaning and grasp of the cross, we must allow the cross to get a grasp on us. Therefore, let us go back to the Garden of Gethsemane. What was the Lord saying when He said, "...the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it" (John 18:11b)? The best way to know is to see what was in the mind of the people in the Bible days when Jesus used this figure of speech. In Psalm 75:8, we observe a cup full of a mixture of wickedness poured out until the final dregs are consumed. In Jeremiah 25:15, 16, we see a cup that holds the fury of God. The word fury comes to us from the Hebrew word *chemah*, which means: anger, a poison which emanates from fever, hot displeasure, furious, indignation, rage, wrath. In Isaiah 51:22 we are introduced to a cup of trembling. In Hebrew the word is *tarelah*, which means the object of terror. Imagine it--a cup of terror! Ezekiel tells us of "...the cup of astonishment and desolation..." (Ezekiel 23:33b). Desolation means a state of complete destruction; deserted of people and in a state of bleak and dismal emptiness. John wrote these horrific words on the isle of Patmos: "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:10). The vision before us of "the cup" has taken on horrendous ramifications. John says there is a cup of God's indignation that holds fire and brimstone. This cup contains the very torments of Hell!

#### A. A Cup of Information

I bring to your attention Matthew 26:37-44. We see our Lord praying in the Garden and we are arrested by the fact that Christ "...began to be sorrowful and very heavy" (Matthew 26:37b).

#### B. A Cup of Desolation

In Mark 14: 32-36 we see another revelation. In Mark 14:33 it reads that Christ, "...began to be sore amazed and very heavy..." (shock and awe).

#### C. A Cup of Devastation

We see through the eyes of Dr. Luke in Luke 22:41-44 a unique description of this event. Jesus is undergoing such agony that He sweats great drops of blood.

#### D. A Cup of Damnation

What was so very terrible about this cup? The terror, the rage, the indignation of this furious cup that held the dregs of fire and brimstone has struck terror in the heart of our Lord that ultimately breaks and requires angelic resuscitation so that He might live to die the next day on the cross. John 18:11: "Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?" II Corinthians 5:21.

### **II. THE PAIN THAT ENCOMPASSED THE CROSS**

John 18:4, 5a: "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of

Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I AM *He*.” John 18:6: “As soon then as he had said unto them, I AM *He*, they went backward, and fell to the ground.” Note: *He* is in italics.

Jesus is then brought before Annas, the former high priest and father-in-law to the present high priest, Caiaphas. After which He was brought before Caiaphas, the chief priest, elders and all the counsel could not find any false witnesses that were believable, because their stories all contradicted one another. Finally two false witnesses stepped up whom the Sanhedrin believed might work their lies. Mark 14:59: “But neither so did their witness agree together.” These two claimed that Christ was going to destroy the temple and raise it up in 3 days. This was of course prophecy of his impending death. Jesus then prophesied their demise in judgement at His glorious return as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Matthew 26:64; Revelation 19:11-16). Caiaphas ripped his clothes crying that Christ had committed blasphemy. Mark 14:65: “And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.” This was prophesied in Isaiah 50:6. Peter followed the procession to the high priest’s palace. While there he did exactly what Jesus said he would do in Luke 22:61: “And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.”

Morning had now come, it is “Good Friday,” as it is now called and the Sanhedrin meet one more time and Jesus is asked, “Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth” (Luke 22:70, 71). Now when Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, in angry grief, he returns to the Temple declaring he had betrayed innocent blood and threw the 30 pieces of silver at the feet of the chief priests and elders on the Temple floor and went out and hanged himself.

Next Jesus is brought before Pilate and even his wife warns him of a dream she had that Jesus was innocent and Pilate should have nothing to do with his indictment. From Pilate Jesus was taken to Herod, who desired to see a miracle performed by Jesus. Our Lord did not even say one word to him. Jesus was brought back to Pilate. Pilate had him scourged (Psalm 22:17), crowned with thorns (Genesis 3:18) and in mockery clothed our Lord with a purple/scarlet robe. Pilate declared, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:5b). Then after the crowd cried again for Christ to be crucified, John 19:10, 11 says, “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?” Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”

On to Calvary! Simon is compelled to bear Christ’s cross. On the way to Golgotha, our Lord gives a dire warning to the daughters of Jerusalem.

Upon arriving, our Lord is nailed and suspended between Heaven and Earth and He speaks:

1. The Word of Forgiveness- "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).
2. The Word of Redemption- "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:40-43).
3. The Word of Responsibility- "Woman, behold thy son!...Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26,27).
4. The Word of Acceptance – "I thirst" (John 19:28; Amos 8:9).
5. The Word of Rejection- "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).
6. The Word of Completion- "It is finished" (John 19:30; Luke 23:45).
7. A Word of Resignation- "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

### **III. THE POWER BEYOND THE CROSS**

The sequence of the three Messianic Psalms: Psalm 22, 23 and 24.

Hebrews 9:11-15

-Pastor Pope-