

LUKE 23:46 – Jesus Dies on the Cross

8/13/16 Sat Morn Prayer

Luke 23:44-48 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. [45] Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. [46] And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, **"Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."** Having said this, He breathed His last.

Context/Biblical Background – What our Lord accomplished on the cross was an eternal transaction that involved Him and the Father. He did not die as a martyr who had failed in a lost cause. Nor was He only an example for people to follow. **Isa 53:1-12** makes it clear that Jesus did not die for His own sins, because He had none; **He died for our sins.** He made His soul an offering for sin (**Isa 53:4-6, Isa 53:10-12**).

The last of seven remarkable words that Christ spoke after He was nailed to the cross. The last four were after the three hours of darkness:

1. "Father, forgive them" (**Luk 23:34**). 2. "Today you shall be with Me in paradise" (**Luk 23:43**). 3. "Woman, behold your son" (**Joh 19:25-27**). [Three hours of darkness; Jesus is silent] 4. "Why have You forsaken Me?" (**Mat 27:46**) 5. "I thirst" (**Joh 19:28**). 6. "It is finished!" (**Joh 19:30**) 7. **"Father, into Your hands"** (**Luk 23:46**).

Jesus dies on the cross. -

There was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour:

- The three hours of darkness was a miracle. It was not an eclipse, because that would have been impossible during the Passover season when there is a full moon. It was a God-sent darkness that shrouded the cross as the Son of God was made sin for us (**2Co 5:21**). It was as though all nature was sympathizing with the Creator as He suffered and died. When Israel was in Egypt, three days of darkness preceded the first Passover (**Exo 10:21**). When Jesus was on the cross, three hours of darkness preceded the death of God's Lamb for the sins of the world (**Joh 1:29**).

The veil of the temple was torn in two:

- The tearing of the temple veil signified at least two things. **First, now man has free access to the throne of grace** by the cross. **Second, no one should ever think again that God dwells in temples** made with hands.
- **Matthew 27:51** notes that the temple was torn *from top to bottom*. God tore it from heaven instead of man tearing it from earth.

When Jesus had cried out with a loud voice:

- Jesus cried out something with **a loud voice**, Then He spoke to God the Father in the lines that follow. **John 19:30** tells us what He said: *it is finished*, which is one word in the Greek (*tetelestai* - paid in full). This was the cry of a winner, because Jesus had paid in full the debt of sin we owed, and had finished the eternal purpose of the cross.
- At some point before He died, before the veil was torn in two, before He cried out *it is finished*, an awesome spiritual transaction took place. The Father set upon Jesus all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God for us.
- As horrible as the physical suffering of Jesus was, this spiritual suffering - **the act of being judged for sin in our place - was what Jesus really dreaded** about the cross. This was the *cup* - the cup of God's righteous wrath - that He trembled at drinking (**Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jer. 25:15**). On the cross, **Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God who was judged and forced to drink the cup of the Father's fury.** He did it so we would not have to drink that cup.
- **Isaiah 53:3-5** states powerfully: *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*
- "The fact that He could raise His voice, when normally a crucified person could barely gasp for breath, **indicates that Jesus was still in control** of His destiny."

Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit:

- **His work on the cross accomplished, with prayer Jesus yielded His living spirit to God the Father** as He yielded His body to death on the cross. **This shows that Jesus gave up His life when He wanted to and how He wanted to.** No one took His life from Him; **He gave it up when His work was finished.** Jesus is not a victim we should pity, but a **conqueror we should admire.**

- Save your pity for those who reject the complete work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary; for those preachers who do not have the heart of Paul in 1 Cor. 1:23, when he proclaimed the center of the Christian message: *we preach Christ crucified*.

Having said this, He breathed His last:

- **Once the work of the cross was accomplished, Jesus felt no further need to endure the suffering.** He yielded His living *spirit* to God the Father. He yielded His body to death on the cross and ***breathed His last***.
- The average time of suffering before death by crucifixion is stated to be about 2-4 days (Tenney), although there are reported cases where the victims lived for 9 days. (Lipsius) The actual causes of death by crucifixion were multifactorial, one of the most significant would have been the severity of the scourging. (Edwards) Jesus died a quick physical death (Pilate was surprised that He had died so soon. (Mark 15:44)).
- While many of the physical signs preceding death were present, one possibility is that Jesus did not die by physical factors which ended His ability to live, but that **He gave up His life of His own accord**. His last statement, "*Into Your hands I commit My Spirit*" seems to show that Jesus' death occurred by giving Himself up. In John 10:18, He states that **only He has the power to lay down His life. He proved His power over death by His resurrection**. Truly, God is the one who has power over life and death

Summary:

- **The veil of the temple was torn in two! Now man has free access to the throne of grace by the cross!**
- **We see Jesus taking His last breath – *Into Your hand I commit My Spirit!***
- **Once the work of the cross was accomplished, Jesus felt no need to continue, giving up His life of His own accord.**
- **He died, not as a martyr but as the Sacrificial Lamb, sinless Himself, but paying the price for all of my sin and your sin!**
- **John 17:4 *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.***

PRAY TODAY FOR: (Name persons, name things, take direct aim at the objective of your supplications)

- **Our Church, Nationally and locally**
- **For fruitfulness CreationFest – illumination; a message; an open door; effectiveness; clarity; boldness; deliverance**
- **Our Nation: Our leaders; for kings and those in authority**
- **Our Current Pres/VP Candidates: Donald Trump; Hillary Clinton; Mike Pence; Tim Kaine**
- **California – Gov. Brown; U.S. Senators Feinstein & Boxer; 40 State Senators; 80 Assemblymen**
- **Police officers/military & all those upholding law & order**
- **When in small groups - Personal Prayers:**

JESUS PAID IT ALL – Elvina Hall; Joslin Choral Society

*I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*

*Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone.
Refrain*

*And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.
Refrain - Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow.*

"Amazing Grace" – Newton – sung by Judy Collins

*1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears
relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first
believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me
home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the
sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first
begun. (Repeat verse 1)*

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