

19:26-30 The Sayings of Christ on the Cross 02

Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?

Reading – Luke 23:33-47 1st January 2017

We started to look at Christ on the cross. The statements that He made on the cross show us so much of the picture of Christ. He started and ended with prayers to His Father. The 2nd and 6th were both about salvation. The second was to the thief, a promise that he would be with Him in Paradise and the 6th that it was finished. The 3rd and 5th were about earthly needs for his mother and his thirst. The center was the call to God as He was forsaken. The center: As we look at this, we have started looking at the gospels to see why each gospel writer chose to list the ones He did. Mark was believed to be written first and for the Romans. He shows Christ's work. It is filled with the Word immediately. Matthew is very similar, but tells us of the incredible teachings of Christ. It can actually be broken down into 5 major teaching sections. Both of these gospels choose to only show us the center statement of Christ. The one that shows what His work on the cross cost Him. Today we want to look at Luke. Luke is the closest we have to an actual historian. While each writer had an audience and a thought he was trying to show, Luke comes the closest to writing a detailed timeline of the life of Christ. Today, we will look at this account.

- Why four gospels?
 - Multiple witnesses...
 - Each focuses on different aspects of Christ. They weren't trying to be exhaustive, but to show a picture to help certain people understand and to know Jesus. It would be suspicious if they were identical. This is somewhat deductive reasoning. For instance, Matthew isn't addressed "To the Jews" but by its continual use of references in the Old Testament, it shows that it was written to a people that knew the Scriptures. 64 quotes from Old Testament.. It helps us to organize the thoughts of Scripture and to understand why there are differences in the content of what they chose to record. The facts of birth, life and death remain the same, but each writer pulls out different examples from Christ's work and teaching.
 - This is why we are to be reading all the Scriptures.
 - This is also why we do a lot of cross referencing.
 - Incredibly important time. This was the turning point between the old and the new covenant. Luke 16:16 Mark 1:1 John 1:17.
 - Both John and Luke give us the reason they were written. **Luke 1:3** tells us it seemed good to me also, having had a perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus. (loved of God)
- Luke is felt to have been written for the Greeks. Greece had self destructed after Alexander the Great's death. Their culture had pinnacled for only 50 years. Socrates, Plato, than Aristotle.
 - Socrates: Started it, truth can be found inside of us. Question everything...
 - Plato took it further and believed there was an ultimate truth that we all knew...
 - Aristotle saw it become the beginning of modern psychology.
- Luke shows them what they missed. It isn't something from inside that we need. We can't find the help we need inside. We are in need of help from outside.
 - Luke shows us that God came to us, as the perfect man, to save us from our sins...
 - He focuses on Mary, the human side ignores Joseph in Luke's account.
 - We have the story of John the Baptist given in its fullest context. Luke 1:13-17
 - **Vs. 17** He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ... and the disobedient to wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
 - Not about us, but being right with God.
 - The account of Mary and Elizabeth meeting.
 - Elizabeth's greeting Luke 1:41-45 Blessed is she who believed.... That is the key. Believe.

- Mary, who believed, tells us about God's power and goodness. Don't look at self, look at God. It is about what **HE HAS** done. Vs. 46- 55
- Genealogy: **Luke 3:23** ... Being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph...
- Announcement to Mary... Not to Joseph... Joseph is a place holder. He is the legal line and legal father as the husband of Mary, but not important to Luke.
 - Joseph mentioned four times (**Luke 2**), twice in taking Mary to Bethlehem, and twice alongside His mother Mary... vs. **4, 16, 33, and 43**...
- **Luke 2** – Story of the Shepherds
 - God again coming to sinners... God's reaching out to us.
 - **Vs. 10** Good tiding of great joy which will be to all people. God coming to us, speaking. Gentiles...
 - **Vs. 11** Savior, Christ Lord
 - **Vs. 14** Glory to God in the Highest, peace, goodwill toward men... God is the first principle. The underlying source, the foundation that we build on.
 - Greeks exalted man, the perfect balanced individual... abominations...
 - Luke points to God. The overwhelming need to Know God.
 - Paul in **Acts 17** points to God as well and Christ as His representative. God is, and you don't know Him, even though He has shown Himself!
- Christ as well teaches and shows He comes from the Father, to do His Father's work of bringing salvation to men.
 - **Luke 2:48-49** ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously. ⁴⁹ And He said to them, Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?
 - **Luke 4:18-21** ¹⁸ The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To **preach the gospel to the poor**; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, (2 Co. 4:4) To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD. ²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
 - **Matthew 5:3** poor in Spirit, (brokenhearted), **5:4** Mourn (over sin), **5:5** meek (humbled) **5:6** hunger and thirst after righteousness, (Salvation)...
 - It is more than an escape from hell... It is a thirsting after righteousness! That is the core of salvation: Knowing you are a sinner, knowing you can't do it on your own, knowing you need a Savior, following Jesus, not just receiving Him...hungering and thirsting after.
 - Man has never been the center point. His own people will try to stone Him when He tells them that He won't do miracles for their enjoyment. He wasn't sent to them. **Luke 2:23-30**.
 - **Col. 1:16-23** ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.** ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies

in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

- **Luke 23: 33-47** The three sayings Luke focus's on. Same theme. God coming to man with salvation....
 - **Luke 23:34** Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
 - He came to save sinners.
 - He came to bring true knowledge. Where do we go for help? To the Word of God.
 - The Perfect Man, comes from God, He comes to save us (humbling), He cares. He brings the truth from God.
 - **Luke 23:43** “And Jesus said unto him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”
 - He is the one that can open the gate. He is the way the truth and the life...
 - Verse 44 -45 Darkness, temple curtain opened. Holy of Holiest visible.
 - Notice it was still inside the temple. One gate, sin offering, incenses offering with show bread and minora, see God's thrown of Mercy. We start with sin, we listen to God, we ask for forgiveness, we come in to His presence, we find mercy and grace at His thrown. **Hebrews 4:16**
 - It was the Mercy seat, now we come to the true holy of holies, the throne of grace...
 - **Luke 23: 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.”
 - Had cried (past tense; done)with a loud voice.... “It is finished”
 - Father – Start and end. His position. Only one good is God!
 - Power over life and death and willingly gives His life for a ransom.

The question for us today is have we truly met this Christ-The Son of God? Have we listened to His voice and heard Him speaking? Do we long, hunger and thirst for righteousness? Do we know what that is about? That is the salvation that He comes to bring. Like the thief (**41**), we must come to a point where we know that we say, “we indeed justly” and then call upon Jesus for salvation. That is when we will be comforted, and set free.

Prayer “Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” (**2Co 13:14 NKJ**) **In Jesus Name**

Sing the Doxology.... Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creature, here below..., Praise Him above you heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen