

Introduction

The plans that I have are to preach on the **Death of Christ** this morning and then to preach on the **Resurrection of Christ** next Sunday morning, which is **Easter Sunday Morning** or as I prefer to call it **Resurrection Sunday!**

This morning lets focus on the great sufferings of our Saviour both in the hours before the Cross as well as on the Cross itself!

As we study the Bible we find that there were actually four places that mention Jesus shedding His blood.

The blood of Jesus is worthy of our focus because **His blood that was shed was not the blood of just another spotless lamb! All of the sacrificial lambs that had been offered in faith under the law and even before the law** (from the lamb slain by the LORD God in *Genesis 3:21* to provide a covering Adam and Eve all the way up to this time) **were just pictures or types of the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Christ's death was not all that was needed to pay our sin debt. Yes, He had to die but His blood also had to be shed!

Hebrews 9:22—"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

*Revelation 1:5—"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"***

Christ's blood was God's requirement to pay man's sin debt!
And there were 4 places in the Bible that Jesus shed His blood.

1. JESUS BLOOD WAS SHED IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
This phenomenon of **"bloody sweat"** under extreme emotional stress is recognized by medicine and is called *diapedesis*, or *the seeping of the blood through the vessels without rupture*.

2. JESUS' BLOOD WAS SHED AS HE WAS SCOURGED BY PILATE'S SOLDIERS. (27:26)

John 19:1—"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him."

This was a method of torture the Romans used that was inflicted with an instrument called *"The cat of nine tails."* (Which was a leather whip with nine strips of leather of which bone, metal or any other thing that would rip the flesh would be attached to the end of the strips.)

Psalms 129:3—"The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows."

Isaiah 50:6—"I gave my back to the smiters and my cheeks to them that plucked off my hair..."

3. JESUS BLOOD WAS FURTHER SHED AS HE WAS MOCKED BY THE SOLDIERS PRIOR TO HIS CRUCIFIXION. (27:26-31)

The crown of thorns of the Saviour was made of long thorns that were as sharp as ice picks.

The robing of the Saviour, while it may have slowed down the blood somewhat when it was put on Jesus, ripped open again the wounds He already had when it was removed from Him.

4. JESUS BLOOD WAS SHED ON GOLGOTHA ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY. (27:32-36)

I want to spend a few minutes talking about this last place where Jesus shed his blood.

Golgotha (Greek), *Calvary* (Latin), *the place of the skull* (the meaning of both).

It is believed to have been a garbage heap that had the appearance of a skull when viewed from a distance.

It is there that Jesus paid the sin debt for all of mankind. It is there where the Lord of Glory suffered and died. It is there that **we see mankind at his worst and God at His best.**

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It is there that God demonstrated His love for the world, including those that hate Him and deny Him!

It is there that the prophecy of Genesis that was given to Adam and Eve, where the Seed of the women would have His heel bruised and the serpent would have his head crushed was fulfilled.

Thank God for Calvary!

As we read the various accounts of Christ's crucifixion in the Scripture, one of the things that we see are the various people that were there that day around the **CROSS** when Jesus died! Each one of them responding in some way to what they were seeing!

Some were involved in the process (*Vs 27-35 the soldiers and Vs 54 the centurion and they that were with him*), some sat and watched (*Vs 36*), some passed by and commented (*vs 39-40 mentions some unnamed people and vs 41-43 mention the chief priests, scribes, and elders*). *We even see the thieves that were crucified with Jesus chime in vs 44*). *We also know from other Gospel accounts that some of Jesus' relatives and friends were there*. But understand that everyone that saw the **CROSS** some 2000 years ago had some response to it though all of the responses are not recorded.

You see the **CROSS** is not something that you can look at without it having some sort of an affect on you. In fact, it will affect you and you will develop some attitude toward the **CROSS** if you ever take a good look at it.

So I want us, using the Word of God, to catch a glimpse of Christ's **CROSS**. As we look at the attitudes toward Christ's **CROSS** back then, we'll see that they line up with many of the same attitudes today.

I. CALVARY WAS A PLACE OF DERISION! (27:37-44)

*Luke 23:35 – "And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them **derided him**, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."*

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derided = ridiculed, sneer at.

The second verse of the hymn "*The Old Rugged Cross*" says this: "*Oh the Old rugged cross so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me, for the dear lamb of God left his glories above, to bear it to dark Calvary.*"

When Jesus hung between heaven and earth, Calvary was a place of **derision**. It was a **place of mockery, a place of ridicule and scorn**. **Just a week earlier Jesus' was heralded as he rode into Jerusalem! (Palm Sunday – Matthew 21:7-11)**

The hearts of some that day were so callused that they had no compassion or sympathy on Jesus as He was dying! Even though He was proven to be a just man and a holy man—THE GOD-MAN!

If you notice, they were not showing that same kind of **derision** toward the two thieves that were dying by His side that day, but only to Him!

What does this tell us about mankind in general? For the most part, there is **hatred** and **disdain** toward our blessed Lord and His cross.

Years ago people were making fun of the Christ of Calvary as He hung on the cross! But it is not much different today as those who choose to follow Christ suffer a similar **disdain** for their belief in Him!

1 Corinthians 1:18–"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

An increasing number of people make light of our LORD and our belief in Him. And many think nothing of taking the LORD's name in vain today by using His precious name as a by-word and a cuss-word!

And in these last days, sadly, it is only going to get worse because society's attitudes are getting more antagonistic toward Calvary, the One Who was on the Cross, and those who choose to follow Him!

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Matthew 5:10—“10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

CALVARY WAS A PLACE OF DERISION!

II. CALVARY WAS A PLACE OF DISREGARD! (27:35-36; 39-43)

John 19:19-20— 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.”

Many that day passed by Calvary's hill had a **disregard** for what was happening. To some it was a non-event, they did not care that He was being crucified or why He was being crucified.

Most certainly there were those that **despised** Christ, and were pleased that he was dying, (*namely, most of the Pharisees and Sadducees*) but there were also those that had no opinion or thought of what was happening (*namely, most of the soldiers that were involved in the act out of their duty as Roman soldiers to carry out the sentences of rulers*)

They had seen men die on that hill before. The soldiers had crucified others on that hill before. They had heard the groans and moans of pain before. To them it was just another day!

It is not that they necessarily hated Jesus or were glad that he was being crucified. It's that they just did not care that he was dying.

Today, at the foot of where Calvary is said to have been, I read that there is a bus station. People are coming and going by there all the time probably less than 100 yards from the place called **“the place of the skull!”** Many, if not most of the people pass by without one thought of what Jesus did for them there!

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Many are too busy or too apathetic to think on the death of the Son of God. They **disregard** Christ and what He did for them to their own peril! *“Maybe someday”*, but somehow that someday never comes!

Some people live in this and other neighborhoods nearby and never think once about Christ...some out of **derision** for Him and us who belong to Him...others out of a careless **disregard** of eternal things!

III. CALVARY WAS A PLACE OF DEATH! (27:50-54)

(The hymn – **“At the Cross”**)

“Alas and did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die...”

*John 10:10-11—“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd: **the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**”*

*John 10:17-18—“17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again.** 18 **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father.”*

*John 15:13—“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man **lay down his life for his friends.**”*

God set the penalty for sin, but He also provided an alternative gift! *Romans 6:23—“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

God paid the penalty of sin when He gave His only begotten Son!

The most precious gift that could be given to someone is the gift of life. (*e.g. Physical life – my brother received a heart transplant*)

Spiritual life and **eternal life** are only made possible through Jesus Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross of Calvary!

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IV. CALVARY WAS A PLACE OF DELIVERANCE!

(Luke 23:39-43)

- A. We See His Acknowledgment As To Being A Sinner!**
- B. We See His Acknowledgment As To The Righteousness Of The Saviour!**
- C. We See His Acknowledgment Of Faith In The Saviour!**
- D. We See His Salvation Acknowledged By The Saviour!**

Conclusion

What is Calvary to you?

IS IT A PLACE OF DERISION FOR YOU? You may deride Him and those that have believed on Him now, but there will come a day that your derision will be changed to sorrow for having cast aside the only way to eternal life!

IS IT A PLACE OF DISREGARD FOR YOU? Maybe you have been too busy with life to consider Christ. Listen to me, there is danger and death in delay! Opportunity for eternal life is slipping by and it could literally be gone in a heartbeat!

IS IT A PLACE OF DEATH FOR YOU? *Romans 6* talks about how those who believe on Christ are identified in what He did for them! His death satisfied our requirement for the death of our sins! His burial was ours and His resurrection is ours! But these only come by identifying in Christ by believing on Him, trusting in His finished work on the Cross of Calvary and victorious resurrection from the grave!

IS IT A PLACE OF DELIVERANCE FOR YOU?

Some folks wait too late! Both of these thieves had the same opportunity to be delivered from their sins and eternal death! One thief on one side of Christ found deliverance just in the nick of time! The other thief died in his sin and is burning in hell still today! How sad!

We have had folks who almost waited too late to trust Christ!

Kent Harvey 6/16/2013 - 7/17/2013 (1 month and 1 day - Age 53.4)

Dick Schneider 1/8/2013 - 1/17/2013 (9 days - Age 77.7)

The thief on the cross believed on Jesus as he was literally dying on the cross!