

“The Death of the Savior”
Mark 15:25-37
(Preached at Trinity, August 5, 2015)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Tonight we come to the most important event in the history of the world – the death of the Son of God.
 - A. This was the most important death in history. This death was a substitutionary death. His blood was a perfect atonement for sin.
 - B. This death was God's only remedy for sin
John 14:6 NAU - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."
1 Timothy 2:5 NAU - "For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,"
Acts 4:12 NAU - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
2. Tonight I want us to examine the death of our Savior. May we approach the subject with great reverence and fear.
3. Jesus was crucified at 9:00 in the morning
Mark 15:25 NAU - "It was the third hour when they crucified Him."
 - A. This was according to the Jewish way of telling time – 6:00 a.m. began the day. The third hour was 9:00 by our clock
 - B. At noon, after three hours, the sun ceased to shine –
Mark 15:33 NAU - "When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour."
 - C. At the ninth hour, 3:00 in the afternoon, Jesus died.
 - D. There were several signs that accompanied His death. We will look at this next week.
- I. The sacrificial transaction
Mark 15:34 NAS - "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
In these words we find the full consequence of sin as the Lord Jesus Christ became our Substitute
 - A. For eternity Jesus had only known fellowship with the Father
 1. He had been in the Father's presence as one God

2. They shared in perfect glory, majesty and splendor as one
John 17:1 NAU - "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You"
John 17:5 NAU - "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."
 3. They shared in perfect, infinite, eternal love
 - a. The Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit shared a unique exquisite love for one another.
 - b. It was a cry of eternal love and union being breached.
- B. This was a terrible sentence for Christ
1. The cup of the wrath of God was full, and Jesus drank it all
 The fullest measure of God's wrath at the cross was the breach of the eternal fellowship of love between the Father and the Son. The Cross was an infinite curse upon sin and the Father turned away from the Son. Only when you understand this can you comprehend the words of our Savior.
 2. Because Jesus became sin He was utterly abandoned and forsaken by God
Psalms 5:4-5 – "For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."
 3. He was cursed by God
Galatians 3:13 NAS - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree "
 4. Here we find the pure character of God
 - a. God is absolutely holy – He is infinitely removed from all that is defiled. He turned away from Christ.
 - b. Here we find God's inflexible justice
 If He would not withhold His wrath from His Son what hope do we have?
- C. Here we find the ultimate consequence of sin
Romans 6:23 – "For the wages of sin *is* death;"
1. Jesus received the wages that we have earned
 As our Substitute He suffered under God's Divine wrath
 2. The Father poured out His wrath upon His Son. As the precious blood of Christ was poured out the justice of God was satisfied and His wrath was turned away
 3. All of creation stood in silence as Christ fell under the wrath of God
 - a. Darkness covered the earth
Mark 15:33 NAU - "When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour."
 - b. Matthew adds there was an earthquake
Matthew 27:51 NAU - "the earth shook and the rocks were split."
 - c. All of creation trembled before this solemn transaction between the Father and the Son
 4. The horrible testimony to the dark depravity of the human heart, in the midst of this dark moment most of those who witnessed it remained unchanged

II. Our Lord's last words: What were these last words?

Mark 15:37 NAU - "And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last"

A. The words of victory - "It is finished!"

John 19:30 NAU - "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

1. In English this is three words, "It is finished"
In the Greek it is one single shout, "Τετέλεισται" – it is a victor's shout
2. The full accomplishment of our atonement – "It is finished"
 - a. The Temple veil was torn forever ending the sacrificial system of blood being poured out on the mercy seat. Jesus poured out His blood once and forever.
Hebrews 9:11-12 NAU - " But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹² and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."
 - b. God's justice had been satisfied, atonement for sin had been accomplished and His wrath appeased.
3. The Old Testament prophecies had been fulfilled – all accomplished
4. The full defeat of Satan was accomplished
Genesis 3:15 NAU - "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."
Revelation 20:2-3 NAU - "And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."
5. The end of the Old Covenant and the full initiation of the New Covenant – "It is finished"
 - a. At the Last Supper Jesus said,
Matthew 26:28 NAU - " for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."
KJV – "New Covenant
 - b. His death brought the New Covenant to its fullness
The Old Covenant was only a foreshadow of the new
 - c. The ceremonial law had now been abolished – "It is finished!"
6. The end of His role as Suffering Servant
 - a. His purpose had been fully accomplished
Matthew 1:21 NAU - "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

- b. He has returned to His eternal glory, exalted to the right hand of majesty
Philippians 2:8-11 NAU - " Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
- c. He has been forever exalted
Revelation 1:13-16 NAU - " / saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength."

B. And then His final words:

Luke 23:46 NAU - " And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last."

- 1. He freely offered up Himself
It was both a natural death and a supernatural death
- 2. The death of Christ was a natural death
 - a. It was a real death—like every other human being
His body ceased to be alive – He was placed in the tomb
 - b. It involved all of the physiological causes
He ceased breathing, His heart stopped and His blood ceased to flow. His brain ceased to function. He was dead.
- 3. On the other hand, it was a supernatural death
 - a. First, we must notice our Lord's strength – this is important for us to note
 - b. Normally a victim of crucifixion suffocated to death. As he hung by his arms the diaphragm was unable to draw in air. In order to breathe he had to lift himself up by his arms and push with his legs. In time he became too weak to do this lifting and he was unable to draw a breath. It was a horrible death.
 - c. The soldiers came to break their legs to hasten their death since they would no longer be able to push up to breathe. But Jesus was already dead
John 19:32-33 NAU - "So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; ³³ but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs."

- d. Jesus cried out with a “loud” voice. We are to notice His strength. He didn’t die from the physical trauma. He wasn’t suffocating. He gave His life. It wasn’t taken from Him.
John 10:17-18 NAU - "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."
- Matt. 20:28 NAU** - " just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- e. Live was not taken from Christ. He deliberately dismissed His spirit.
 Augustine – “He gave up his life *because* He willed, *when* He willed it, and *as* He willed it.”
- f. With these words we find a restoration of fellowship between the Father and Son.
 "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."

Conclusion:

1. In the words of our Lord we find the full accomplishment of our salvation. From His being forsaken of God while he bore the sins of the world, to His cry of victory, “It is finished” He perfectly accomplished all that He was sent to do.
2. Do you know this Savior? Are you serving Him?
 This wondrous event has little meaning for most of humanity.
1 Corinthians 1:18 NAU - "For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
3. Does your whole life revolved around this glorious event?
1 Corinthians 2:2 NAU - " I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."
 Christ beckons you to come:
Isaiah 45:22 KJV - "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is none else*."