

He saved others ...

Mark 15 - Palm Sunday Evening Service – March 28, 2010

Preparing for Easter week ... and celebrating communion this evening ... is an appropriate time to refresh ourselves in the Person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Let's consider what many spectators at the cross said as Jesus hung on the cross. And let's consider what God the Father would have said in answer to these mockers. And then let's consider what we as believers could have said to Jesus knowing what we know today.

Mark 15:22

And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull.

➤ **The words of many at the cross**

Mark 15:29-32

And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,

15:30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross! "

15:31 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking Him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself.

15:32 "Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!" And those who were crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him.

Their mocking:

Ridiculing the prophecy that Jesus made about His death ... *YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO DESTROY THE TEMPLE AND REBUILD IT IN THREE DAYS ... SAVE YOURSELF!*

How ironic ... for they are making fun of Jesus ... who would do EXACTLY what they are mocking Him for. Three days later He would rebuild His bodily temple. Though they all "destroyed" Christ's earthly temple – His body – Jesus would rebuild it in three days

KEY PHRASE:

SAVE YOURSELF!

The crowds were mocking Him saying ...

Come down from the cross!

Chief priests and scribes joined in the ridicule

He saved others; He cannot save Himself ... Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!

Even the other two thieves joined in the mocking

Those who were crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him

My friends ...

I am so glad that this mocking was not a temptation to Jesus ... a temptation to prove these people wrong. I'm glad Jesus wasn't tempted to come down from the cross – which would have been so easy for Him to do ... something Jesus mentioned just the night before when He was arrested – speaking to Peter.

Matthew 26:53-54

"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

26:54 "How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?"

O He could have come down and surrounded the crowds with a heavenly army

Transition: The crowd was ruthless ... angry ... disgusting in their disdain for the One who had saved others ... had healed others ... had made life so much better

- ✓ for the blind,
- ✓ the deaf,
- ✓ the paralyzed
- ✓ the lame
- ✓ even some who died and were raised to life again

He did save others ... He did so much good ... He did what He came to do ... but most mocked Him for it.

➤ **Had God the Father spoken at the scene of the cross ... while His Son was dying**

If God the Father would have spoken audibly ... He would have said ...

"Listen sinners and listen good!

- ✓ *The importance of this event is unmatched in human history.*
- ✓ *What you are seeing today was planned in eternity past!*
- ✓ *It was a strategy My Spirit and My Son and I agreed to.*
- ✓ *Even before any human being lived on earth – this plan was drafted.*
- ✓ *Every moment of every day it has been on our minds.*
- ✓ *If you look at human history you'll discover that the devil himself has tried to thwart this plan ... to stop it!.*
- ✓ *He's tried on several occasions to annihilate My chosen people.*
- ✓ *Pharaoh tried to annihilate my people.*
- ✓ *Wicked Haman in Persia tried to kill My people. But I would not let it happen.*
- ✓ *Throughout the ages – I have protected the tribe of Judah and the royal line so that my Son would be born an heir to the throne of His earthly father, David.*

But here is what you need to understand most. I am making My Son who is holy and perfect ... One who has never sinned ... to be sin on your behalf.

II Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Right now My Son is your substitute!

- ✓ *He is taking your place!*
- ✓ *He is being punished for your sins, your crimes, your transgressions, your iniquities.*
- ✓ *He is taking on the punishment for a Law far greater than the laws of the Medes and Persians ... the soul that sins will die.*
- ✓ *A death is necessary to pay the penalty for sin*
- ✓ *A death is necessary to satisfy My wrath*
- ✓ *Right now My Son is experiencing My wrath ... so sinners who believe in My Son ... do not have to experience My wrath*

- ✓ *He's suffering on your behalf ... so that He might give you what you need to someday be in My presence.*
- ✓ *For what is needed in order to stand in my presence is righteousness!*
- ✓ *And because of what He is doing ...those of you who trust in My Son – trusting in what He's doing here today – you will stand before Me someday BLAMELESS!*
- ✓ *You see sinners, only My Son ...*

Jude 1:24

“... is able to ... make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

And because this plan was designed from eternity past ... and because the Son, the Spirit and Myself knew it was the only way to provide sinners with forgiveness ... I on My part was actually superintending the death.

- ✓ *I am not passively standing by.*
- ✓ *I am not a spectator ...*
- ✓ *I am very involved more so than any other person. While evil men participated in such a way as to someday reap punishment ...*
- ✓ *I am using their heinous crime to provide the greatest benefit mankind will ever know. As a participant in My precious and beloved Son's suffering ... let all the world know ... I ...*

Isaiah 53:10

“ ... was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering,

And here's an insight into what was going through My Son's mind ...

Isaiah 53:11

As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

Not only this ... in anticipation of His death ... knowing the anguish and misery He would experience ... Jesus My Son had what should amaze you. He had joy!

Hebrews 12:2

“...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame ...

And I on My part ... I will reward My Son with incredible honor and glory.

Isaiah 53:12

“... I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors;

And know where Jesus will be in 3 days ...for He will sit down at My right hand ... at My Throne in glory!

Hebrews 12:2

“... at the right hand of the throne of God,

The Jews who hated My Son ... knew that it is a curse to be hung on a tree ... a cross. And they are right. The Laws of God have been violated by every human being ... with the exception of My Son. So what He is doing on that cross right now is taking the punishment for everyone who has broken My Laws.

Galatians 3:13

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"--

➤ **Had we been present at the cross ...**

Knowing what we now know ... had we heard the words of the crowds telling Jesus to save Himself ... the words on our lips should counter theirs!

Had we heard the words ... *SAVE YOURSELF*

We should have countered their mocking by saying to the Lord Jesus ... *NO, LORD JESUS! PLEASE, O PLEASE DO NOT SAVE YOURSELF.*

- ✓ *I KNOW YOU COULD COME OFF THAT CROSS IF YOU WANTED TO.*
- ✓ *NO POWER IS HOLDING YOU TO THAT CROSS ACCEPT YOUR LOVE FOR SINNERS ... YOUR DESIRE TO BE OBEDIENT TO YOUR FATHER*
- ✓ *I KNOW YOU'RE INNOCENT.*
- ✓ *I KNOW YOU ARE HOLY.*
- ✓ *I KNOW YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS.*
- ✓ *BUT JESUS, O JESUS, PLEASE DO NOT COME DOWN FROM THAT CROSS UNTIL YOUR WORK IS COMPLETE!*
- ✓ *PLEASE DO NOT LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF SINNERS WHO LOVE THEIR SIN AND HATE THE SAVIOR*
- ✓ *PLEASE HOLY SON OF GOD ... STAY ON THAT CROSS UNTIL YOU CAN SAY ... IT IS FINISHED*
- ✓ *BUT DO NOT LEAVE THE AGONY ... THE SUFFERING ... THE ABANDONMENT BY YOUR FATHER ... BY LISTENING TO THESE UNGRATEFUL SINNERS*
- ✓ *AND MAY I BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WORK ON THE CROSS ON MY BEHALF*
- ✓ *MAY I NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH PHYSICALLY AND BODILY ... THE BEATINGS, THE BLOWS TO YOUR FACE, THE SCOURGING ON YOUR BACK, THE CROWN OF THORNS ... THORNS DRIVEN INTO YOUR SKULL BY THAT CROWN ...*
- ✓ *MAY I NEVER FORGET YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD THAT ... THE PROFUSE BLEEDING FROM YOUR HANDS AND YOUR FEET*
- ✓ *MAY I ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OF SINS!*

AND MAY MY DAILY LIFE ... EVERY MOMENT OF MY EXISTENCE EXUDE A LOVE FOR YOU AND OBEDIENCE TO YOUR COMMANDS.

AND MAY THIS OBEDIENCE BE A DEMONSTRATION OF MY LOVE ... MY APPRECIATION ... MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU DIED IN MY PLACE!