

SERMON TEXT: Luke 23:32-34 –(NIV) (Matt. 27:32-56; Mk 15:21-41; John 19:16-37)

Vs. 32 - Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed.

Vs. 33 - When they came to the place called the Skull, **there they crucified Him**, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left.

Vs. 34 - Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them**, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**GREETING:** Jesus says: Come to ME, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. .... rest for your souls. (Matt. 11:28-29 -NIV)

We have arrived at the cross! God in His grace has brought us to this Good Friday as we continue our walk to the cross using the sermon series entitled, “*Hands of the Passion*”.

The series began with *Hands of Repentance* as we looked at the Tax Collector in the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. (Luke 18:9-14)

Then we continued our journey with **the following**:

*Hands of Betrayal* – Judas – John 13:21-30.

*Hands of Misguided Zeal* – Peter when he cut off the ear of Malchus –John 18:4-11.

*Hands of Hypocrisy* – Caiaphas when he tore his clothes and accused Jesus of Blasphemy – Matthew 26:57-66.

*Hands of Brutality* – The Soldiers – As they beat Jesus – Matthew 27:27-31.

*Hands of Self Preservation* – Pontius Pilate – Who “washed” his hands – Matthew 27:15-26.

*Hands of Praise* – The Disciples – Crowds & Owner of donkey on Palm Sunday – Mark 11:1-11.

*Hands of Humility* - Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in Service – John 13:1-5; 12-17.

This Good Friday – 2021 – As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, we look at *The Nail Pierced Hands* of Jesus our beloved and wonderful Savior.

There is a hymn entitled: “Were you There?” (C.W. 119) – “*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? – Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, were you there when they crucified my Lord?*”

As we look through the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus we see that **some of those who were there include**:

**Some Roman Soldiers** – who even though they were trained fighting men, who drove the nails into the Lord Jesus, when Jesus died and there was the earthquake we are told: The centurion exclaimed: “Surely He was the Son of God”. (Matthew 27:54)

**Two other criminals** – who both began ridiculing Jesus as we are told in **Mark 15:32** – “**Those crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.**” But then before death overtook them, one of the thieves on the cross next to Jesus said: “We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” He then said: “**Jesus, remember me when you come into Your kingdom.**” And Jesus answered with those words of comfort, assurance and power, “**I tell you the truth, TODAY you will be with Me in paradise.**” (Luke 23:41-43)

There were **Jewish religious leaders** there at the cross as is recorded in Scripture: **“In the same way the chief priests and teachers of the law and the elders mocked HIM. ‘He saved others, but He cannot save Himself!’**” (Matthew 27:41-43) These religious leaders knew that Jesus had healed others, and yet they mocked the Creator of the Universe and the Savior of the world.

**Even Pontius Pilate** made his presence known by having a sign placed over the head of Jesus on the cross stating the crime for which Jesus was condemned: **“Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews!”** (John 19:19, Matt. 27:37, Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38 in 3 different languages – Latin, Greek Hebrew / Aramaic)

The **Apostle John was there as well as Mary the mother of Jesus:** As Jesus was on the cross Scripture records these words: **“When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, Dear woman, here is Your son, and to the disciples, Here is your mother. From that time on this disciple took her into his home.”** (John 19:26-27)

There were those who passed by and mocked the Lord Jesus: **“You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”** (Matt. 27:39-40) Won’t they be in for a big surprise when The Lord Jesus comes on the LAST DAY as Judge?

**Many other women were there** watching as Jesus was crucified, some of those listed in Scripture include: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons. (Matt. 27:55-56)

There is another HYMN – **“God Was There on Calvary”** – C.W. 140 – The first verse of that hymn goes: **“God was there on Calvary. God the Father’s only Son, Dying that the world might live. There on Calvary.”**

God was there yet we learn from Scripture that God the Father also forsook His Own Son. God the Father turned His back on His Own Son, as Jesus cried out: **“My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me?”** (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34) It was then that the Lord Jesus suffered the pains of hell on our behalf, so that you and I do not have to. Instead of the fear of hell, we can look forward to heaven.

And we also look at yet another HYMN – C.W. 143 – He’s Risen, He’s Risen – Verse two states: **“The foe (Satan) was triumphant when on Calvary the Lord of creation was nailed to the tree. In Satan’s domain did the hosts shout and jeer, for Jesus was slain, Whom the evil ones fear.”**

Does that bring chills down your spine? Satan and the other fallen angels (Rev. 12:7-13) for a period of time thought they were victorious over God / Jesus. But they did not know the future, they did not know that three days later Jesus would rise from the dead (Even though Jesus had been proclaiming that through His earthly ministry, Lk. 18:33).

Jesus rose three days later because Jesus was without sin, and death could not hold Him.

Who else was there on Calvary? - The Sin of the Entire World was there on Calvary! “For God so Loved the World, that He gave His One and Only Son, that Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have Eternal Life.” The sin of every human being from Adam and Eve until the end of time was there on Calvary.

This means, that WE WERE THERE on Calvary. Our sin, each one of us, everyone seated here this evening, everyone listening on the World wide web, my sin, was there on Calvary.

In Paul’s letter to the Romans, it is written: “God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

There is a short saying that goes like this: “*While Christ was on the cross, I was on His Mind.*”

The unconditional, Sacrificial love of Jesus is what makes this Friday – GOOD. When your sins condemn you, when Satan seeks to devour you, when you are feeling guilty, spiritually empty, unworthy of God’s love, remember Jesus.

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Included with the THEM – Is You.

AMEN

**THEME: Nail Pierced Hands**