

Good Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Text: Matthew 27:45-50

## The Death of Jesus

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli,<sup>[a]</sup> lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>47</sup>When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

<sup>48</sup>Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup>The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

<sup>50</sup>And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Theme: The Greatest Battle Ever Fought

"He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:25

Text:

Good Friday, who look to His Cross and His Cross alone,

At high noon it turned dark. There was no sunlight, moon, or stars. Everything came to a stop. It was not an eclipse.

Historians were saying that even in far away places like Egypt, everyone was experiencing this darkness on Good Friday.

The darkness was from a crucifixion. ,,,,,,an ugly death which sometimes would take days before you died. How hot and long

it was. The criminals diaphragm worked slower until you were asphyxiated and your breathing became slower and slower.

Many followed him. They listened closely and sang his praises just a few days before. The crowds called him a Savior. He said his kingdom consisted of truth. He was God's special soldier. Now he was dying.

The final battle. The big one. He served and worked every day of his life for this. Your future, my future.

Websites that list the greatest battles of all time. This one is not listed. The life of Jesus is the most significant single life in all of history. And what happened changed the world and everyone who has ever lived.

FROM NOON UNTIL THREE IN THE AFTERNOON DARKNESS CAME OVER ALL THE LAND. ABOUT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON JESUS CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? A voice from the darkness. The voice of Jesus.

The agony Jesus suffered was horrendous. He had distress from the night before in the Garden. He lacked sleep and food. Special punishment from a crown of thorns, mocking, the pulling out of his beard, his clothing stripped off, Whipped to the bone. Carrying the crossbeam became too heavy for him. How could any human being do this to another? This is our Savior they are beating to a pulp.

Without complaining Jesus endures the pain, the awful treatment, the scorn. What does he do? He speaks some amazing words from the cross. He asks God to forgive those who tortured him. He answers the prayer of another thief on the cross next to him. He so calmly shows tender concern for his mother and told John to take care of her.

The darkness shows how much God hates sin for it separates us from God. The darkness is both God's reaction to the judicial murder of His Son, and God's dreadful judgment upon sin as suffered by his Son.

There was Jesus all alone against the forces of hell. Satan hates Jesus. And on this moment when he now sees the Son of Man and Son of God at his weakest-where he might be vulnerable. Satan will do everything to force Jesus to give up his life's work of paying for your guilt and atoning for the whole world's sins.

But Jesus is still fighting this wicked fallen evil angel in this great darkness, alone, pure, holy, and faithful. Still loving us. Even a child can understand this is why Jesus is both God and man!

Man to take our place, God to pay for all the sins of all people.

Now comes the worst. God's anger burning against him. Think of the power he had-Creator of the Universe who crushed the world with a gigantic flood, who smashed Sodom and Gomorrah, who made the mountains shake and tremble for Moses-that one is directing his anger and fury against Jesus.

Jesus voice changes tone. An awful loud cry from the cry he makes: ABOUT THREE IN THE AFTERNOON JESUS CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE, MY GOD, MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

We know our triune God is one eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So I can get my head around the fact that Jesus is now forsaken. The Father, source of all love in the world turned his back on the Son he had so clearly declared at his Baptism on the Mount of Transfiguration when he called him his beloved Son.

At the beginning of his suffering Jesus calls him Father. You can see the intimacy, the closeness, Now Jesus calls him My God My God as he loudly asks that big why question. Notice how formal that is?

The relationship broken. His mission still in sight thru his suffering. Sheer horror for our warrior. It's the worst moment of his life and his lonely suffering reach its peak on the cross. It is right here the battle will be won or lost.

When the dust settles, then came the victory cry. The darkness begins to retreat. Jesus is thirsty. After the drink on a sponge, he said, IT IS FINISHED!

Mark tells us the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Someone said this was God's way of saying, Amen to Jesus words, It is finished. No more sacrificing of animals, There was no need for a high priest, God has opened up access

to himself, for all people-nations languages, cultures, and generations thru the Lamb of God, Jesus. He actually transferred the righteousness of Jesus to us!

Notice how the sacrifice for sin was completed. He says, Father again. God's anger had been spent. The consequences between Father and Son no longer exists. That cry, IT IS FINISHED! Says it all. The greatest battle of all, the work of forgiveness is over! The devil is mortally wounded, still walking around but he can no longer win. Satan thought he had locked heaven's gates tightly, Jesus took off the locks and has locked Satan down with a restricting chain!

Our home in heaven is prepaid! There is nothing you and I, or even God, has to pay for our guilt and sin.

His work is done. Soldiers, mockers, crowds could not kill him. Our holy Jesus remained spotless, and unblemished, as he experienced hell, now offers his pure and perfect life as the final, and for all sacrifice that had been promised ever since Eden's Garden.

It is finished! Amen.