

Hope at the Cross

Luke 23:33-49

³³ When they came to the place called *The Skull*, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁴ But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. ³⁵ And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" ³⁸ Now there was also an inscription above Him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. ⁴² And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" ⁴³ And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Life is often leading us to believe that we are in a hopeless situation. Even in our successes, we know that our hearts are empty and our lives seem meaningless. We can strive to be perfect and find that our achievements only condemn us. Nothing we do will bring real peace. However, what Jesus did on the cross brings us real hope.

Jesus chose the cross:

1. To pay the ransom for us. He sets us free.

Mark 10:45, 1 Corinthians 6 :19- 20, 7:23, 1 Peter 1:18-19

2. To provide a real victory for us.

1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14-15, Colossians 2:15

3. To offer a sacrifice on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:14, 25-28, 10:12, 22:20, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21

4. To reveal His glory.

John 12:23-24, 32-33, 13:31-32, 3:14, 8:28