

## #1 Matthew 27:33-50 “Excruciating Pain”

**Context:** Matthew 27:33–50, Mark 15:22–41, Luke 23:26–49, John 19:17–37

<sup>33</sup> And when they had come to a place called #2 Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, <sup>34</sup> they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted *it*, He would not drink. <sup>25</sup> Now it was the third hour (noon) <sup>35</sup> **Then they crucified** Him, #3 <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “*They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*” <sup>36</sup> Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there...<sup>39</sup> The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. <sup>40</sup> “Look at you now!” they yelled at him. “You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!” <sup>41</sup> The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. <sup>42</sup> “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! <sup>43</sup> He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup> Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**” that is, “**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**” <sup>47</sup> Some of those who stood there, when

they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" <sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "*I thirst!*" <sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him." <sup>30</sup> So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "*It is finished!*" <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" and And bowing His head yielded up His spirit.

**Pray.** What was Jesus physically enduring during the three hours on the cross? "The Day Christ Died" Jim Bishop 1957

**#4** ("As Jesus slowly sagged down with more weight on the nails in His wrists,) His arms were now in a V position and He became conscious of two unendurable circumstances. The first that the pain in the wrists was beyond bearing (the nails in the wrists had cut through and were tormenting the median nerves traversing the arm - this would have shriveled up the hands into knots) and muscle cramps knotted his forearms, upper arms and the pads of his shoulders.

**#5** The second that the pectoral muscles at the sides of the chest were momentarily paralyzed. This induced involuntary panic in the victim, who found that he could draw air into his lungs but was powerless to exhale. (most often suffocation was the cause of death in a crucifixion)

**#6** At once Jesus raised Himself up on His bleeding feet. As the weight of the body was pressed against the insteps, the single nail pressed hard on the top of the wound (there was searing agony as the nail tore through the nerves between the metatarsal bones in the feet).

**#7** Slowly, steadily Jesus was forced to raise Himself higher until, for the moment, His head hit the sign which said "This is Jesus, King of the Jews". When the shoulders were on a level with the head, breathing was rapid and easier. The victim of crucifixion had to fight the pain in his feet in order to take a few rapid breaths.

**#8** Then unable to bear the agonizing cramping of the legs and thighs, his torso would sag lower and lower, the knees projecting a little at a time, until, with a deep sigh, he felt himself hanging by the wrists - a process repeated again and again until death.

**#9** <sup>39</sup> And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

**"those who passed by blasphemed Him"** Not only did Jesus endure pain and abuse beyond measure at the hands of the Jewish and Roman soldiers; but now as He was taking the brunt of the agonizing pain of crucifixion, He was also enduring the blasphemy and mocking from the religious leaders and Roman soldiers, which literally breaking His heart.

But Jesus knew why He was suffering - He knew that He was bearing the sins of people who were hopelessly and helplessly lost in sin. These were enemies of His Father God in desperate need of the love and mercy. Though He was here willingly and knowingly, He still experienced **intense shame and loneliness of His rejection; He still had to endure it!**

The writer to the Hebrews tells us that **#10** "he endured the cross, despising (disregarding) its shame" (***NOT "despising" in the sense of***

**“hating” – but discounting, ignoring, thinking nothing of it – scorning its shame as something not worthy to be taken into account), (Heb. 12:2)** He is our example of patient endurance and the Holy Spirit will enables us as God’s children to patiently endure our own trials with the same hope of promised joy and glory. **#10a** What did Paul say: **Romans 8:18 (NKJV)** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

The mockers said things like: **“You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself!**

This of course is a mocking reference to what the false witnesses had said at Jesus’ trial. Actually this isn’t at all what He had said **#11 John 2:19–22 (NKJV)** Jesus answered and said to them, “[YOU, not “I will”] Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”<sup>20</sup> Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”<sup>21</sup> **But He was speaking of the temple of His body.**

**“If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”** Who does this sound like? **#12 Matthew 4:1–3 (NKJV)**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.<sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, **“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”** ...“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.

**#13**<sup>41</sup> **Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,**<sup>42</sup> **“He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.**<sup>43</sup>

**He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "**

**"mocking...Himself He cannot save"** The Holy Spirit speaking through King David recorded some of these demonic insults hurled at Jesus by the leaders of Israel.

**#14** Psalm 22:6–8 (NIV84) But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: <sup>8</sup> ***"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."***

**#15** Psalm 69:19–20 (NIV84) You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you. <sup>20</sup> **Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.**

**#16** \*\*\*Once at a luncheon I attended, Bruce Marchiano, the actor who played Jesus in the "Matthew" videos, spoke about filming the crucifixion scene. He said that it had changed His life because of the emotions of loneliness and shame he had felt to the point of death, even acting it out for the film. He said that at one point, as they filmed the cross scene, he felt he was actually beginning to die.

**"Scorn has broken my heart"** Have you ever had a broken heart? Have you ever been lonely? Worse yet, was that loneliness brought on by the rejection of those you love? Have you ever been so lonely that you were to the point of despair, feeling helpless? Jesus knows exactly how you felt (feel), because He endured such a time for you! ***He suffered so that you could be a child of God, forgiven; with His Spirit and life flowing through your veins!*** He suffered because He longed to be with you in all the trials of life.

**“for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”** This addresses what Pilate put on the sign over His head and the primary reason that the Jews sought to kill Jesus. Though He told them the truth – that He was God come to earth to save them from their sins, they wouldn’t believe it, rejected this truth and rejected their Messiah and sought to kill Him. **#17 John 10:30-33 (NKJV)** <sup>30</sup> **I and My Father are one.”** <sup>31</sup> **Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.** <sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, saying, **“For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”**

**#18** <sup>45</sup> **Now from the sixth hour (12 noon) until the ninth hour (3 PM) there was darkness over all the land.**

**“Darkness”** **#19** "This darkness described here seems to have pervaded the world at this very hour. Phlegon wrote that there was great darkness over Europe, surpassing anything that had ever been seen. At midday, he said, the stars could be seen. An entry was found in the records of Rome, a notation of worldwide darkness which the statesmen of the empire could not explain." Jim Bishop

**#20 Amos 8:9–10 (NIV84)** “In that day,” declares the Sovereign LORD, **“I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.** <sup>10</sup> “...I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.”

**#21** *“Did the darkness have any meaning?” The darkness signified judgment, the judgment of God upon our sins. His wrath as it were, burning itself out in the very heart of Jesus, so that he, as our Substitute, suffered most intense agony, indescribable woe, terrible isolation or*

*forsakenness. Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Savior descended into it and bore its horrors in our stead. Hendriksen*

**#22** <sup>46</sup> **And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

**"My God, My God"** This darkness enveloped Jesus also - a despair of the soul as He suffered in anguish His last hours of earthly life. Remember, not only was Jesus was being rejected and "forsaken" by men at this point, He was also being rejected by God, as He **"laid on Him the iniquity of us all."** The Holy Spirit spoke this through **#23 Isaiah 53:3–6 (NKJV)** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. **#24** <sup>5</sup> But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Paul explained what happened: **#25 2 Corin. 5:21 (TLB)** For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us!

**#26 Adam's sins have swept between the righteous Son and Father:  
Yea, once, Immanuel's orphaned cry His universe hath shaken,  
It went up single, echoless, "My God, I am forsaken!"** *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

**#27** <sup>47</sup> Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for **Elijah!**" <sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. <sup>49</sup> The

rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."<sup>50</sup> And **Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.**

**"Elijah" (Eli, Eli)** The *bystanders* misinterpreted Jesus' words and thought he was *calling for Elijah*. Because Elijah had ascended into heaven without dying (2 Kings 2:11), a popular belief held that Elijah would return to rescue those suffering from great trouble and the final appearance of God's kingdom. Bruce Barton

**#28 John 19:28–30 (NKJV)** After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, **"I thirst!"**<sup>29</sup> Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth.<sup>30</sup> So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **"It is finished!"** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

**What was finished?** The purpose for which Jesus died; the sacrifice on the cross for our sins. **#29 John 3:14–17 (NKJV)** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**"Jesus...yielded up His spirit"** The Son of God came willing to earth to save His covenant people (children of Abraham) and all who would believe on His Name. Jesus did not die of asphyxiation as most prisoners on a Roman cross; I.E. He was NOT *killed* on the cross. He suffered, and when His sacrifice was complete He let His earthly shell go because He no longer needed it! **#30 John 10:17–18 (NKJV)** "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again."<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from



Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

**#31** A Medical Description of the end: He suffered hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, dislocated shoulders and elbows, intermittent partial asphyxiation, and searing pain as tissue was torn from his lacerated back from his movement up and down against the rough timbers of the cross.

**#32** Then another agony began, a deep crushing pain in the chest as the pericardium, the sac surrounding the heart, slowly filled with serum and began to compress the heart. The heart beat would rise to 200-220 beats per minute or more as the end was rapidly approaching. The loss of tissue fluids had reached a critical level;

**#33** the compressed heart was struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood to the tissues, and the tortured collapsing lungs were making a frantic effort to inhale small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues sent their flood of stimuli to the brain. His body was now in extremis, and he could feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues.

**#34** “Apparently, to make doubly sure of death, the legionnaire drove his lance between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. John 19:34 "And immediately there came out blood and water."

**#35** Thus there was an escape of watery fluid from the sac surrounding the heart and the blood of the interior of the heart. **This is rather conclusive post-mortem evidence that Jesus died, not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.”** **Note:** He left His body behind, as it was dying literally of a “broken heart”.

**#36** Psalm 69:20 Reproach has broken My heart...” \*\*This broken heart of God on the wooden beams of Skull Hill was the

solution to the problem highlighted many years earlier when Jesus had asked Adam: ***“Where are you?”*** Adam had gone into a far country and broken God’s heart – now that broken heart is manifest and fulfilled in God, and has come to that “far country” to give His life in sacrifice for the sons and daughters of Adam that they will be able to return to Him.