

## The Great Physician

### Luke 23:27-56

- Jesus is headed to the cross, but before He does people are faced with a choice, will they believe that what He said about life, death, sin, salvation, Heaven and Hell, is true or was it a lie? Pilate when confronted with this very choice understood that what Jesus was being accused of wasn't true, and was warned by his wife not to condemn Jesus but to set Him free > **Math 27:18-19**. Yet he ignored what he knew to be true and went along with the crowd because it pleased the flesh by seemingly benefitting his political career, so he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

### V27-56

- **V27-31** Crucifixions like most violent events it typically drew a crowd, and one involving someone as well known as Jesus would especially attract attention. In the multitudes of people were women who openly were weeping for Jesus, lamenting how this Man Who openly healed the sick, cast out Demons, lifted up the downtrodden and oppressed, enlightening with His teachings those who previously had sat in the dark with no hope of salvation.
- Jesus while appreciating their sympathy used it to direct their attention upon an important lesson that He had already touched on, how this was all a sign pointing to the terrible destruction that is coming upon Jerusalem and the entire nation because of unbelief. As bad as Jesus plight was, what was coming upon the Jewish people would be worse, as the Romans would attempt to starve the Jews into subjection, and hungry men defending their city would take food intended for their wives and children, and even kill and eat their own flesh and blood.
- Jesus says its so bad that normally in Jewish custom motherhood was praised and barrenness stigmatized, but in these horrible times that are coming, it would be better not to have children rather than see them go through this unimaginable ordeal. **V31** Jesus says “**if this is the fate of the innocent** (referring to Himself as the green wood) **what will happen to the guilty**” (those who rejected Him, and placed a curse on themselves and families) **Math 27:25**. Most of the crowd didn't pay any attention but thought He's just upset that He's being put to death.
- **V32-33** we see there two other men being crucified alongside Jesus, and unlike the Lord they were criminals, **Mk 15:27** says they were robbers, thieves, that means these guys actually were guilty of what they were being accused of. Think about this for a moment, the people had an opportunity to set Jesus free, The One Who had healed leprosy, gave sight to the blind, and fed the hungry, but they chose someone who was a murderer and a rebel over a Savior. Sadly people are still making the wrong choice today, they'd rather stay in their sins than be set free.
- **V34-39** here is a fact no matter what you've done in life before leaving it you will come face to face with Jesus, these guys are on the cross and yet they will be given a choice as to Who they will put their trust in. People are mocking Him, robbing Him, doubting Him, even the thieves who themselves was being crucified joined in > **Mk 15:32, Math 27:44**. But look at Jesus response as you see no hint of anger or revenge, but only a display of mercy and compassion. What's interesting is if Jesus did save Himself then He couldn't save us

- What's interesting is if Jesus did save Himself then He couldn't have saved us, so what they were asking Him to do when have been devastating to mankind. This is just another example of man not knowing what is good for himself and choosing that which is destructive and not helpful. **V39** unbeknownst to them that's exactly what Jesus was doing just not in the way they'd hoped.
- **V40-43** at some point one of them had a change of heart, maybe it was as both of them were railing on Jesus and upon looking across at one another they had to see Jesus and His bloodied bruised face, shredded up body, and hear His voice saying "Father forgive them for they do not know what they do". Because next we see and hear three things that comes from salvation > **1<sup>st</sup> Repentance V40-** do you not fear God, **2<sup>nd</sup> Confession V41-** we deserve death, we're guilty, **3<sup>rd</sup> Faith V42-** Lord remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.
- **V43** Jesus reply was "assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise" notice Jesus response to the thief on the cross is He gives Him a promise, assuredly, its personal, I say to you, and that his life after death would be spent in glory and not torment. **V44-47** this is the last of Jesus in **V46**, from the time Jesus was crucified most believe from 9am until 3pm, our Lord made seven statements, but Luke only recorded three > **1. 23:34** "Father forgive them", **2. 23:43** "Today thou shalt be with Me in Paradise", **3. 23:46** "Father into Your Hands I commit My Spirit".
- **V47-49** the three hours of darkness are a miracle not an eclipse, and this event brought about a reaction to many who stood around to see what would happen. First we see a centurion, a gentile soldier who after seeing the darkness cover the whole land immediately gave glory to God understanding that this wasn't some criminal we just crucified but that He was Who He said He was. In **Math 27:51-54** we see that the veil in the temple tore, the earth quaked, the rocks split, and graves opened up and people came out of them and walked into Jerusalem.
- We read that a gentile centurion who witnessed the darkness, the earthquake, rocks splitting, hearing about graves opening, the temple veil tearing, was enough for him to say "**truly this was the Son of God**". Think about this for a second others who knew Jesus better having heard His teachings and followed Him for sometime seeing miracles just like what this centurion saw for the first time we read that they stood at a distance not knowing what to make of these things?
- **V50-56** the death of Jesus brought one man out of the closet, a man named "Joseph of Arimathea" Joseph and his friend Nicodemus were respected members of the same council that voted to crucify Jesus, but they didn't vote to condemn Jesus > **Jn 19:38-41**. They initially wanted to follow Jesus in secret but Jesus has a way of making us come out in public and declare our worship, belief, and loyalty, to Him, and now we see both Joseph and Nicodemus not care who knows that they follow Jesus come forward and ask to bury our Lord properly.
- Christianity does this to all of us, formally your not a hugger, or your un-emotional- watch the tears, your shy, don't like to talk much, God will make you bold and put you in situations where you can't help but speak. **V53** what they wrapped Jesus in is the same thing the priests wore on "**Yom Kippur**" the day of atonement, as these are the garments of the forgiven > **Rev 19:14**.

