

March 25, 2018

“Redemption’s Song:

The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”

It’s a Song of Suffering: The Cross

“When Jesus had tasted it, He said, ‘It is finished!’ Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” John 19:30

Matt 27:35-50; Mark 15:24-16:11; Luke 23:33-44,46; John 19:18-30

A. The setting...

1. A dramatic reading will set the scene for the message. The reading was taken from “Answers in Genesis” and is entitled, “Our Suffering Savior”, *A Physician’s Perspective*, written by Dr. Tommy Mitchell.

“There they nailed Him to the cross.” John 19:18a

B. Not just any other day...

1. For the Roman guards, it was all in a day’s work! The Romans had experienced tens of thousands, maybe even hundreds of thousands of crucifixions. At one time there were even 6,000 in one day.

“After they had nailed Him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and kept guard as He hung there.” Matthew 27:35-35

*“Crucifixion was not a punishment that originated with the Jews or their judicial laws. Crucifixion was a brutal form of punishment that was common among the Romans. The Romans chose this mode of capital punishment to put fear in everyone who would stand against Rome and Roman laws. Crucifixion was common in first century Israel and this fact is well documented in the writings of Josephus. The Romans would choose a popular place in clear view, lest anyone else violate Roman law.” *Ancient Manners and Customs*

2. Jesus’ offense... He was crucified as “King of the Jews.” Herod was the appointed, King of the Jews, and Jesus’ claim was a capital offense. It was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek so all could see and read.

“A sign was fastened above Jesus’ head, announcing the charge against Him. It read: ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’” Matthew 27:37

3. Upon His cry for thirst, Jesus was offered a drink. **“Jesus knew that His mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, ‘I am thirsty.’” John 19:28**

“According to an old tradition, respected women of Jerusalem provided a narcotic drink to those condemned to death in order to decrease their sensitivity to the excruciating pain When Jesus

arrived at Golgotha he was offered . . . wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it, choosing to endure with full consciousness the sufferings appointed for him (The Gospel of Mark, p. 564)”

“So the first wine (mixed with myrrh) was designed to dull Jesus’ pain, to keep him from having to endure the cross with full consciousness. This wine he refused.”

“A sour wine vinegar is mentioned in the OT as a refreshing drink (Numbers 6:13; Ruth 2:14), and in Greek and Roman literature as well it is a common beverage appreciated by laborers and soldiers because it relieved thirst more effectively than water and was inexpensive There are no examples of its use as a hostile gesture. The thought, then, is not of a corrosive vinegar offered as a cruel jest, but of a sour wine of the people. While the words “let us see if Elijah will come” express a doubtful expectation, the offer of the sip of wine was intended to keep Jesus conscious for as long as possible” (Ibid., 573–574).”

“And the second (sour) wine was given to keep him “conscious for as long as possible,” and thus have the effect of prolonging his pain.

*This is the wine Jesus drank.” * * *John Piper*

4. Jesus’ crucifixion took place on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Darkness covered the earth for three hours, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

“It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified Him.”

Mark 15:25

“Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice...Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed His last.”

Mark 15:34a, 37

5. When Jesus died, His life was not taken...He gave it! **“Then Jesus shouted, ‘Father, I entrust My spirit into Your hands!’ And with those words He breathed His last.” Luke 23:46**

“When Jesus had tasted it, He said, ‘It is finished!’ Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.” John 19:30

“The Father loves me because I sacrifice My life so I may take it back again. No one can take My life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what My Father has commanded.” John 10:17-18

6. The first one into Paradise was a thief who confessed his need for a Savior.

“And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with Me in paradise.’” Luke 23:43

7. The Temple curtain, about 1100 feet away, was torn in two from top to bottom, opening the pathway for all!

“And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” Mark 15:38

“Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place.” Hebrews 9:3

“By His death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.” Hebrews 10:20

“This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary.” Hebrews 6:19

8. An earthquake struck, which was customarily thought of as ‘Divine judgment,’ tombs opened tombs and dead were brought back to life.

“At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead. They left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.” Matthew 27:51-53

9. It was not just any day...it was “The Day” that changed eternity for all of us, as witnessed by the Roman guard!

“When the Roman officer who stood facing Him saw how He had died, he exclaimed, ‘This man truly was the Son of God!’”

Mark 15:39

C. So who do you say He was?

1. It was not just any other day when Jesus gave His life that we might be free!
2. It was not just any other day when the curtain was torn, opening the pathway for every one of us to come to Jesus without having to go through anyone else!
3. It was not just any other day when Jesus opened Paradise for all of us to begin to experience His eternal treasures stored for us!
4. It was not just any other day that is now remembered by 2.2 billion people around the world...but certainly 3-4 billion since He gave His life!
5. It was not just any other day that gave you the opportunity to live this day for Jesus! He gave His life, what will you give today to celebrate your new life in Him?

His part: **“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3;16**

My part: **“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:16**

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