

Mark 15:22-34 - A Cry from Eternity

INTRO - We have come to the middle saying of our Savior's *CrossWords*...3 before and 3 after. The middle of the *Sacred 7* is a question. The 3 statements before focused on others - showing that our Lord put others first. The 3 statements after this one are about Himself & His work. This middle *CrossWord* is mountain of a question. Its heights are too steep to climb...the air is too thin and almost absent in those heavenly places. The roots of this mount plunge to the very depths of hell itself -where man dare not tread. There are many mysteries in the Bible & it seems that a cloud of glory covers this question so that even the priests cannot minister...inadequate. Creation shook at this scene, light fled away at the awful cry & every human should bow here.

*THE TIMING**THE CRYING**THE TIMING*

The timing/setting & order of events gives greater understanding to this holy scene

1. The crucifixion/ *CrossWords* were all uttered after an all-nighter....no sleep
 - a. Jesus was spiritually strong when physically weak.
 - b. Our Lord was at His "best" when felt worse.
2. The first 3 *CrossWords* were others oriented. Jesus was selfless and put others first. Jesus died as He lived...loving others Matt. 20:28
 - a. Relinquish - He prayed for His enemies. Giving the forgiving over to the Father.
 - i. He didn't ask to get even...He sent it to heaven
 - b. Responsibility - He sees some family in sea of enemies and makes provision for the physical & spiritual care of care of His mother.
 - c. Reassure - Jesus promised Paradise to the repentant thief
 - i. No delay when he died...went directly to his destiny
3. These first three *CrossWords* were all uttered within a three-hour period
 - a. The Gospels record several timestamps around this most holy day of Passover
 - i. It was about 6 am when Jesus was before Pilate John 19:14
 1. John records Roman timing (like ours- 12am to 12pm is the first half of the day)
 - ii. Jewish timing used the 12 hours of daylight (John 11:9) 6am = 1st hr./6pm = 12th
 - iii. Mark records that Jesus was crucified at 9 am (3rd hr.) Mark 15:25
 - iv. Up all night...arrested... Pilate 6 am...crucified 9am...3 sayings by noon
4. Something supernatural happened at 12 pm that day
 - a. Mark 15:33 the sun went dark from noon to 3 3 hours of darkness
 - b. The last two plagues in Egypt - 3 days of darkness before death of firstborn
 - i. A supernatural darkness that could be felt
 - c. When it goes dark from 12 to 3...that will get your attention
 - d. *Natural* eclipse several years ago was big news...imagine supernatural darkness!
5. Our Lord was silent, and the world was dark for those 3 hours
 - a. Earthquakes & rocks splitting would soon follow but now only darkness (mystery)

THE CRYING

- The silence of the Savior is broken at 3 in the afternoon Mark 15:34
 - After 6 hours on cross and 3 hours of darkness loud cries from the Lord Christ are squeezed out of Him.
 - Only words for others have been uttered by Him until now....
- No cries of Jesus are recorded of Him responding in agony to the physical pain and torment or as a reply to the whip of man.
 - Jesus suffers in silence from mans worse. Isaiah 53:7
- But when the Father brandishes the knife and picks up the whip...
 - when the Son of God is smitten by God... Is. 53:4b
 - when God crushes Him and causes Him to suffer.... Is. 53:10a
 - Jesus cries out in loud voice (Matt. 10:28)
- Jesus endured hell on the cross
 - Hell is described as a place of outer darkness (separate from God who is Light)
 - Hell is described as a place of weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth Matt. 22:13
- To be forsaken by God the Father is the essence and substance of hell
 - Mark 15:34
 - Jesus is quoting from Ps. 22:1 (Messianic psalm describing the crucifixion)
 - *Forsaken* is a terrible word = " *to leave behind, desert, leave in a lurch, abandon*"
 - Jesus was forsaken by friends...family...nation...religion
 - But He always had the Father - John 16:32
 - It is one thing when government forsakes you...but when God forsakes you??!!
 - Who can plumb the depts of this despair or understand the unfathomable?
- Jesus Christ endured an eternity of hell as He hung on the cross
 - Whatever my hell would have been...
 - Whatever the hell of all the redeemed would have been..... HE BORE
 - **He was forsaken so I could be forgiven**
 - Jesus was left alone and forsaken so we wouldn't be - Heb. 13:5b
- Jesus was able to absorb our hell
 - He could bear an infinite punishment during a finite period of time because Jesus Christ of Nazareth is an infinite and eternal Person
 - What we couldn't absorb in an eternal timeframe...Jesus did in one day Zech. 3:9
- Jesus willingly took the wrath of God for us
 - In the garden He asked the Father if it was possible the cup could pass...
 - Jesus willingly drank the wine of Gods wrath down to its very dregs
 - He chugged the whole thing...every drop of wrath (Matt. 26:39, 42)
- If God spared not His own Son...do you think He will spare you?
 - If God spared not the Substitute of sinners... If God spared not the Sinless One...
 - If God spared not the One who bore the sins of others...
- There is not surer evidence of eternal hell than the crucifixion of the Son of God
 - Jesus' *CRY FROM ETERNITY* should ring in our ears (Rejection)
- There is not surer evidence of eternal life than the crucifixion of the Son of God. Behold the middle cross and you see the Holy God of Justice and the Gracious God of Salvation