

June 28, 70 P.M. -
S. N. 09.14, 74 P.M. WXR - Eastern
Lake Drummond near 27, 94 A.M. Palm
Sunday

THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

Matt. 27:33-35

Moses said "Cursed is Everyone that hangeth on a tree"
As "Lifted up the ^{prophet} serpent in the wilderness - so must the son of man be lifted up -"
INTRODUCTION:

On the cross, there came the great victorious battle in which the power of the demons was broken forever. If the world rulers, that is, the demons had known what they were doing, and what they were bringing on themselves - they would not have crucified Christ. I Cor. 2:8. On the cross Jesus became the slayer of death himself. This is clear, that this victory was complete with the evidence and the event of the resurrection.

One of the great principles of Christianity says Pascal, that everything has happened to Jesus Christ should come to pass in the soul and in the body of each Christian. If by faith, I am one with my redeemer, then the term "Christ crucified" - involves I crucified with Christ. Paul saw a rich heritage for the saints. The key was in Christ which opened the fellowship of his sufferings.

Gal. 2:20 - I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. Coldridge said, God manifest in the flesh is eternity in the form of time. Christ crucified - he is the lamb slain and the foundation of the world.

Rom. 6:6 - Knowing this that our man is crucified (with him) - the body of sin is destroyed.

Between the hours of 8 and 9 on Friday morning - Jesus was led from Gabbatha to Golgotha.

V. 24
V. 26

Gabbatha means a pavement. It was a mosaic floor on which the chair of the Roman judge was placed. Seated in his chair on Gabbatha, in the old palace of Herod on Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor pronounced sentence of death against the eternal son of God. When we visited the Holy Land, we were taken to this spot, and there we read the Scripture of this trial which took place and the markings on the floor are still there. And the grooves in the stones to keep the horses hoofs from slipping can still be seen.

1
V. 33

Golgotha is a Hebrew word which means a skull and the Greek and Latin of that is Calvary. It was the name of a little hill just outside of Jerusalem. So called because it was a place of execution. And also, it resembled a human skull. You can stand there today and look at that hill, and it seems to have eyes and a nose carved out by weather and by time - in that hill of stone. These little caves on the side of the hill correspond to the position of ears and nose - eyes and mouth of a human head. And we know from this, that this is the shape of Calvary. The place suggested where Jesus died.

Keep in mind, not until you erect a cross in your intellect of the nails, and your emotions, temper, and ambitions in life - will you be able to see the dying Saviour and say, Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

The Roman soldiers led Jesus from Gabbatha, surrounded by a company who were armed with spheres and commanded by a Centurion. On the way, they halted in front of a prison from which two condemned robbers were dragged forth to die with the Nazarene.

But even this act by his enemies, was to glorify God. For it suggested to them to believe in his divinity, love, and power - that prisons by his salvation are yet to be turned into palaces, as Isaiah prophesied. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because he hath sent me to preach good tidings unto the meek. Bind up the broken hearted - to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to the opening of the prisons - them that are bound.

A little further on, three crosses and three boards are produced and secured. The crosses were made of two long pieces of timber and this has become the great symbol to the religion of Jesus Christ.

✓ Jesus is on the way to open a fountain of life, to all men.

The poet expressed "the cross has wondrous beauty"

Oft, I've proved it to be true
When I am in the way so narrow
I can see the pathway through.

And how sweetly Jesus whispers, take the cross, thou needeth not fear. For I have trod the way before thee and the glory lingers near.

Here I will raise my ebnezer, hither by thy help I've come. And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God. He to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

The world is looking today for a religion that has no cross. I want to remind you, that if there is no cross - there would be no crown.

And each man had a board with white and black letters telling the man's name and his crime. And this board was suspended over his breast by means of a cord around his neck.

Many years ago there was a conversation between Auguste Comte, the French philosopher and Thomas Carlyle, who was a Scottish writer. Comte declared his intention of starting a new religion that would supplant entirely the religion of Christ. It was to have no mysteries. It was to be as plain as the multiplication table and Carlyle said to him, that's very good, very good. All you will need to do is speak as never a man spoke, and live as never a man lived, and be crucified and rise again the third day, and get the world to believe that you are still alive. Then your religion will have a chance to get on. Now that is what people are searching for today - they want something without a cross. But you will never find it apart from Jesus Christ.

Look at the procession

First, you see a squad of soldiers. Then comes the condemned with two soldiers on each side of them. Behind these march the rest of the military attachment. They wear iron breastplates and shields of brass - carry long spheres in their hands and swords at their sides.

There is no pity for the condemned - no more than the paving stones on which they tread.

See the robbers - they are brutal - looking wretches who seemed to have pursued a long course of crime.

Behold, Jesus coming as he staggers with a heavy load. He will fall. His garments are torn and stained with blood, his feet bear, and he leaves a bloody splash on the stones.

V28-29
A crown of thorns has been placed and pushed down on his temple, making deep wounds from which drops of blood trickled down his face and his neck. His cheeks are bruised and bleeding. His hair and beard are streaked with spital, and matted with dirt and blood. His face is pale and sorrowful but calm and sweet.

No sound escapes his lips. Either in anger, or in complaint or criticism.

Then look at the crowd behind him, the citizens who were there for the passover. Their are priests and Levites. With the high priest at the head, gloating with glee at the down fall and the shame of their hated rival.

The members of the Sanhedrin who condemned him to death but did not have the power to execute the sentence. They laughed with joy in the hands of the Roman soldiers. They have left him to be executed.

Behold, the whole Jewish race has risen up to bathe their hands in the blood of the lamb of God. There are servants, camel drivers, market men, thieves, gamblers, cut-throats - all shades of poverty, ignorance, brutality, and vice. That countless multitude, like a bunch of wild beasts - they hoot, they bellow, they yell, they hiss, and scream. "Away with the king of the Jews." Death to the defiler of the temple, kill the blasphemer of God. Crucify him, crucify him!

Jesus is alone. Here and there in the out skirts of the crowd is a man or woman who dares to express sympathy for his anguish and his shame.

Here the Son of God suffered alone for the sins of the world and the Nazarine has fallen. Do you know the most tender words of scripture are addressed to the backslider? And yet the failing strength of Jesus under the weight of His cross. Someone has said, "It matters not so much how many times we fall as long as we rise every time we fall." And of course if we continue taking up His cross, as it becomes heavy, so that one provided for you you need to help to carry.

Remember this, Jesus fell under the cross; it got heavy. He had to have help. Having taken your place, He loves you where you are. And in the language of Malachi 3:7, "Return unto the Lord and I will return unto you." Hosea says, "He will heal your backslidings and love you freely."

His exhausted nature gives way and He sinks and faints to the ground. Not one of the soldiers will bear the polluted cross.

Dr. Musselwhite - Must Jesus Bear the Cross alone or Simon? "all would go for the cross if it were for everyone. There's always for me"

V. 32

Here comes a man by the name of Simon Cyrene. And he is chosen to carry the condemned cross. In fact, they compel him to carry this cross. Now the multitudes deemed this a disgrace. But to this man it was really the highest honor ever conferred on a mortal man; to bear the cross after Jesus means to wear the crown of the mightiest empire.

In the cross of Christ I glory towering over the wrecks of time, all the light of sacred story gathered 'round it's head sublime.

Luke 23:28-31

From the place of the trial to Golgotha, so far as we know, Jesus spoke but once. On a roadside he saw a group of women whose loud weeping was filling the air touching Him with sympathy. He said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold the days are

Symbolic

coming in which they shall say, 'Blessed are the childless for if they do these things in the green tree what shalt be done in the dry?' World fruitless, no opportunity

What they were doing to Jesus - Green - spring - Jesus offered deliverance - Days of favor - Fruitless

V. 33

At last they reached the ghastly hill of Golgotha and the crosses were flung upon the ground and three holes were dug to receive the bases. The soldiers cleared a circle around them with their spears and made preparations at once

A crucifixion was a most diabolical invention of a dark and bloody age. Compared with a crucifixion, death by hanging, beheading or poisoning: it would almost be a positive pleasure.

While to be roasted at the stake would be a more milder and merciful punishment than the crucifixion.

It was of Eastern origin. They tell us it was invented by a woman. Semiramis, Queen of Nenevah.

The Assyrians practiced it centuries before the beginning of our era. From them it spread to the Persians, Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans. Alexander the Great borrowed it from the Phoenicians and practiced it on 2,000 of their citizens whom he captured in the seige of the fall of Tyre. Crassus introduced it to the Romans by lining the road from Rome to Capula a distance of 125 miles with crucified slaves.

The emperor Augustus made it a legal mode of execution by crucifing 6,000 prisoners taken in one of the civil wars.

It was never a Jewish punishment.

One historian tells us that the Phoenicians ^{among} were the first to devise crucifixion. They had tried death by spear, by boiling in oil, by stoneing, by strangulation, drowning, burning; and all had been found to be too quick. They wanted a means of punishing criminals slowly. So man devised the cross. It was almost ideal. Because in it's original form it was as slow as it was painful. Men oftended lived two to three or four days in the burning sun. And the condemned at the same time were placed fairly before the gaze of the people.

Another thing about the crucifixion was it was someting they could add to his shame by stripping his clothes from his body. This added shame to the evildoer and at the same time made him helpless before the thousands of insects of the air and the birds and the small animals that could come before the crucified was dead.

Now the Romans had adopted the cross as a means of deterring crime and

In time they reduced it to an exact science with a set of rules to be followed. The soldiers of the empire had much practice in this field. When the revolt of Spartacus was suppressed, 6,000 men were crucified in a single day. And as I stated, hung on crosses between Capua and Rome.

In the early phases of this form of execution, they had driven spikes through the feet of the victim, tied the hands to the crossbeam. This they learned sapped the strength of criminals so slowly that it was necessary to keep a guard posted at the foot of the cross for several days. Later they abandoned spikes and ropes drove nails through wrists and feet. They found that unless the victim was a tower of strength he would expire within a few hours.

This they decided was reasonable because after that time the interest of the onlookers began to flag. The crowd went home.

Criminals were known to have lasted a week of unspeakable agony on the cross and at last to die with swollen and bursted eyes, tounge and other organs. To such a shameful and excruciating death our blessed Lord submitted himself for your sake and for mine. And then when we remember that amid such torture he forgot himself and thought but of his brothers and his sisters and his mother. It ought to be a lesson to all of us to think more of others and less of ourselves. I read a story of a wealthy woman who was thought to be God's wife. She was driving along the street and she saw a boy standing barefooted in the cold wintry day near a show window. She stopped the carrage and invited him to get in, took him home and gave him a bath and then took him down to her husband's store where she bought him a new suit of clothes, a stocking hat, shoes and a shirt. And she said, and now my dear, we'll go to the resturant and we'll get you some food to eat. And all the while she was telling him the redeeming love of Jesus and then she kissed him goodby and as she turned to leave the lad caught her by the arm and said with big eyes full of wonder and great tears rolling down, madam are you God's wife?

Dear friends, if we're going to win the world to Christ, we must forget ourselves. In Phillipians 2:4, Look not every man to his own things but everyman also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.

Those brutal men, the executioners, stripped off his garments leaving only the cloth about his loins. They threw him upon his back on that cross and stretched his arms out and a soldier put his knee on the elbows and then they drove a large spike through each palm deep into the wood and next they drew up the legs till the soles of the feet were flat on the upright beam; one above another and one long spike was driven through them. And last of all the cross with it's suffering burden was lifted up in from the earth. And it's base was dropped into a deep hole with an awful thud which brought the entire weight of the body tearing the tender hands and feet and sending extreme agony through every limb and every nerve of his body.

But listen. He lifts his eyes to heaven and in an instant in all this suffering he prays for the soldiers who drove the nails. He prays for the priest and the Levites who drove Pilate to make the commission for this crime. And for Pilate whose signed the death warrent. He prayed for Jerusalem whose millions were so eager for his blood.

Breathern, what a poor Christian I am. The women of Jerusalem used to have a fund of money that they kept to provide wine for those who died in crucifixion. But Jesus would not take it. He wanted to die sober so he refused the wine. He would have nothing that would cloud his mental vision. He would look the king of terror full in the face and he would suffer that cross for my conflicts.

v. 34

Afterwards they took a sponge and soaked it in a cup of vinegar, put it on a stick of hissop and raised it to the hot lips of Jesus.

Meanwhile, the thieves received their crucifixion and the holiest man that ever lived was numbered with the transgressions. As God had said it would be. 700years before.

To the Jew - To the Greek - To the Roman own language
"This crucified Man is Jesus, the King of the Jews"¹⁰

V. 37

The next act in this bloody drama was to fix a title above his head. These men had done so in Hebrew, Greek and Latin; the three languages of that day: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

This fulfilled prophesey.

The hymn says, "there is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, And sinners plunge beneath that flood loose all their guilt and stains."

Dear dying lamb thy precious blood shall never lose it's power till all the ransomed church of God are saved to sin no more.

V. 35-36

His garments when you think about the garments of our dead friends and loved ones, we take them and look at them because they have worn them, we take great care in who uses them. But what became of the garments of Jesus? Were they divided among the 12 disciples? Were they given back to the family in Beathany? Or were they given to his mother.

At this point you feel that you're ashamed to belong to the human family when you answer that question. Those bloody villians sat down under the shadow of the cross and gambled for his clothes. Thus, the Devil, the father of all lies added to the bitterness of the Saviour's cup.

The day advances on, the Jews grow tired of their mockery and they strewn back to the city. Then some of the Nazarine friends dared to draw near to the cross. Perhaps there was John his beloved disciple, Mary his mother, Mary his aunt, and Mary Madelene. Of all the Christians in the world, these four were the only ones who had courage to show pity for their Lord. Oh how those names were honored that hour.

V. 44

And then there was a short prayer made by a man who had helped to curse and to rebuke the Son of Man. But he turned to rebuke the other man on the cross and then turned his eyes toward the Saviour and he prayed Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. The prayer was short but into it the dying man put his soul and Jesus heard because this penitent heart and was immediately granted that today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The cross had won its first trophy and the suffering redeemer was rejoicing over the first fruits of a mighty harvest which was to come and yield through the labored soul ~~for~~ through years to come.

Remember, he bore the weight of the accumulated guilt of the entire human race. The Bible says that the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. The redeemer must take the pains of hell; he must take the place of the lost sinner and so the father turned his face. Such agony then was his such as the universe has never known. And it never can be known. It was worse by far than hell. The agony of hell is the agony of the soul cast off from God who is not loved.

And the subject is so deep for us that suddenly an awful cry burst from the Saviours lips. Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.

The Father hears him pray. His dear appointed one. He cannot turn away the pleadings of his son. I think that all earth and sky and sea was caught up with this spoken word that the glorious and grand news began to re-echo: redeemed, redeemed, redeemed. Whosoever will may come may come and partake of the water of life freely. And I think that Jesus heard that shout in song as his voice was lifted up in victory when he stated it is finished and his head sunk upon his breast.

Here's a hymn, While looking through my tears one day, I saw Mt. Calvary
Beneath the cross there flowed a stream of grace enough for me.

Grace fathomless as the sea, Grace flowing from Calvary, Grace enough for eternity, Grace enough for me.

The dividing wall between Jew and Gentile was broken down. Jesus had suffered the loss of blood, the exhaustion, the irritation, and his life was terminated within 6 hours as we discover here. Christ had power over his own life, no man take my life from me but I lay it down of myself, I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it up. So the speedy death of Jesus on the cross, the sleepless

on calvary. A scholarly physician, Dr. Stroud, in a treatise on the physical cause of the death of Christ, which was published back in 1847, wrote that after his study, reflection ~~and~~ he ventured to suggest with reverence that the immediate physical cause of the death of Christ was the rupture of his heart. It was induced by the inner agony of the spirit. The strong emotion that he had carried in his passion. The blood filled the pericardium and by it's pressures stopped the action of the heart. And in speaking of one as Jesus who died of a broken heart we have used words that could be literally true.

You know that people sometimes talk about earthly sorrows as breaking their hearts and why the agony of the spirit which Jesus went through with the Roman soldier put the spear in his side the Bible says there came out water and blood. We turn to the book of Psalms where we have the prophesy which is no small fact. Psalm 69:20-21: "Reproach hath broken my heart And I am full of heaviness and I looked for some to take pity but there were none. And for comforters but I found known none. They also gave me gall for my meat and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." Now this was a prophesy of the coming of the cross and there is no doubt but what it was literally fulfilled. "Reproach hath broken my heart." Yes, on that cross Jesus died with a broken heart.

Psalm 22:14: "I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax, it is melted in the midst of my bowles. We're convinced that in the sorrow there was this element that's altogether unable to compute and really to appreciate. But this is the sacrificial character and death of our Lord. That his most precious death was attributed to a broken heart on that cross.

v.51
Jesus was dead. The old priest entered the temple to make his evening sacrifice and he saw the veil of the temple rent in twain. This was evidence of the fact that he who had hung dead outside of the city wall was the lamb slain from the foundation of the world, that the blood of bull's and goat's could no longer atone for sin.

The hymn, Blessed be the fountain of blood, to a world of sinners revealed.
Blessed be the dear son of God, only by his stripes we are healed. Savour to
that fountain of thine leaning on thine promise I go, cleanse me with that washing
devine that I shall be whiter than snow.

Jesus was dead. What was to be done with his body. According to Roman law
 it was to be left on the cross and devoured by the vultures, the crows, or to
 rot.

This was not the case of Jesus, for ~~phar~~ prophsey had predicted he would
 have his grave with the rich and the Jewish law forbid that a criminal should
 hang overnight. The priest forgot the prophsey but he remembered the law.
 Though ~~strange~~ were these men they were ready to crucify Jesus, but they would
not allow his body to remain above the ground overnight. And for the temple to be
 defiled.

v. 57-60 So, they went to Pilate and begged him the three bodies removed and order the
 soldiers to do so as the Jews desired. Finding the thieves alive, they hastened
 their death by breaking their legs with an iron mallet. When they came to Jesus
 they found him already dead. Fulfilling prophsey 1500 years old. "A bone of him
shall not be broken."

But one of the soldiers making sure raised his spear and drove it into the
 Saviour's side.

But among those gathered around the cross was a wealthy councilor named
Joseph of Arimathaea. He carried a permit from Pilate to remove the body of
 Jesus. Tenderly he took it down from the cross, drew out the nails and closed the
 gaping wounds, washed away the blood and wrapped the body in linen and spices.

Near by was a Garden of Josephs Brand new tomb, Where he expected to lay down
 at last in sleep. there was the bruised body of thbe worlds redeemers body & that
 was where that body would be placed. As the last rays of the sun were shining

W 63-65 through the Olive trees, Joseph's tomb received its precious treasure, the stone was rolled over the entrance to the tomb, & the Roman soldiers were going to come and guard this dead man. The moon came up over Jer. and the women heard the armour of soldiers, and saw the torches as 16 men with spears, swords stood before the tomb. This was done by Pilate at the urging of the Jews to prevent a counterfeit resurrection.

That was the darkest night of the whole world. The hopes of the disciples lay buried in the tomb.

The Glorious morning was about to dawn & in the grey A.M. the women drew near the tomb, one said to the other Who shall roll away the stone for us. What a wonderful faith they must have had. How are they going to get by the Roman Guard? Their Faith and Love was strong enough that nothing could keep them away.

To their joyful surprise the stone was already rolled away. An Angel from heaven had come down faster than the morning light and rolled the stone away.

Roman guard became as dead men & they found their possession had disappeared.

Those hands that had been cold & lifeless on Friday night were warm,

The sun was creeping over the Palestine hills it cast its light into an empty

grave, now that Christ has risen from the grave he has opened a way to the throne of God.

The women were surprised and stooped and looked into the tomb & hurried back to Jer and began to spread the tidings. Mary Magdalene lingered not knowing the truth, felt like somebody had stolen the body of her Lord, stood there weeping. A man spoke to her supposing to be the Gardner, she said sir, if thou hast borne him hence tell me Tell me where thou hast laid him... Jesus spoke to her in that familiar voice, she recognized his voice, she saw his scared hands, Jesus told her not to touch him for he had not yet ascended to his father... Go Tell the Brethren that I will ascend to my father, MY God and your God.

It Must be noticed here that not one Woman mentioned in the Bible, Ever Lifted her voice against the Lord Jesus Christ. And Jesus made his first appearance to a woman, She was the last at the cross, & First at The Tomb.

This is the first time he had ever called his disciples brethern...He is on res-urrection ground now.

Poet= Five bleeding wounds he bears,
Received on Calvary, They pour effectual prayers,
They strongly pledd for me.
Forgive them, ^{oh} forgive them, they cry
Nor let that ransomed sinner die
My Gog has reconciled, his pardoning voice I hear.
He owns me for his child, Why should I Longer Fear?
With confidence I now draw nigh, ^{o Father} Abba Father Cry.

The resurrection story is not exacerated, he shewed himself alive for 40 days and blessed is he that believeth and yet has not seam

Story= Agincourt battle. Henry V-the king dismounted and the calvary dismounted and threw themselves on their face at th Kings feet praising him for his stradeqy.

When the bat;le of life is over and we have won the victory I expect to cast my poor redeemed soul at his feet in praise of His Strategy in The fight against sin that day on CALVARY.

Charles L. Allen ^{Easter}
How it came out - Vivid portrayal - trial Execution on TV. one
Five - a Preacher & 2 little children watched - age 4 & 6
decided to let them see it through -
she sing Jesus love me songs -
Saw men/wipping Jesus, it hurt their hearts
" " / Nail " to cross - they cried -
" " / Berry " - could hardly stand it - unhappy -
Keep on watching - see - what happens Easter morning come - the
women were on way to tomb - Resurrection come - He arose out of Grave &
walked - Relief - Joy showed in faces of 2 children - 4 yr old girl,
Everybod needs to know how

a deeper sense it is true, that we might die as well.

The whole course of life is for Christ and from Christ and not from self to Christ. There is nothing of ours - body, soul, or spirit that is without blemish. Now our death and being crucified is in three areas. First the world - the cross has conquered the world.

Second, the flesh. We war against the flesh and we die to this.

Third, the terrible thing known as death. All of this was conquered in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

story of

Sir John Bowring author - in The Cross of Christ & Glory - Portuguese colonist built at Macao China. on crest of a hill
Massive Cathedral - splendid approach - stone steps.

Typhoon nearly wrecked The Blatz.

on the summit stands Great Bronze Cross - Defying storm.

Sir John Bowring, then governor of Hong Kong visited Macao in 1825
impressed by the uplifted cross. -

wrote the poem - In The Cross of Christ & Glory,
Towering over the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime -

Thousands of visitors have looked upon that same ruin &
cross - some with indifference - curiosity - some reverence -