**The One He Couldn’t Save**  John E Brown

Luke 23:26-44 April 7, 2019

Hebrews 9:6-12

* The road to the crucifixion (Luke 23:26-32)
  + Simon, a North African man, probably a man of color is ‘seized’ and ordered to carry the cross of Jesus.
    - Simon had no choice to ‘take His cross…’ we get to do it voluntarily.
    - A person from a different place (Cyrene) and probably a different race is directly involved in the crucifixion story.
    - Jesus died for everyone and every nation, tribe and tongue.
* There was a large crowd following them and many women who were “mourning Him and lamenting Him” (verse 27)
  + The word for ‘mourn’ means to cut, smite or beat… they were beating their chests and calling out in anguish over the coming crucifixion. (see verse 48)
* Jesus tells these ladies that they need to be concerned for their future not for His.
  + The “green tree” is Jesus. If Israel does not believe Him now while He was present and doing miracles, what kind of difficulties will be theirs when He is not here?
  + We also learn that Jesus will be crucified with two criminals. (verse 32)
* The amazing story of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-49)
  + Jesus is taken to the place called the Skull (verse 33)
    - The Skull: Calvary in Latin and Golgotha in Hebrew.
    - He hung there with a criminal on His left and His right.
    - He died with sinners for sinners.
  + Intent on saving others, Jesus calls out to His Father… “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”
    - How often do you think He has prayed that for you?
    - The crowd missed it when He said this, the rulers missed it, the soldiers missed it, and one of the criminals missed it too.
    - Don’t miss it!
  + Jesus was mocked and belittled for not being able to save Himself. (verse 34-39)
* “They \*crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. [And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with transgressors.”] Those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, and saying, “Ha! You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking *Him* among themselves and saying, “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. Let *this* Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him.” **Mark 15:27-32 NASB**
* People had the wrong criteria for the suffering Jesus endured. He was resolute on saving us and them, not on saving Himself.
  + His power and authority were being exercised and expressed by defeating death, hell, and the grave; not by escaping the cross!
  + If all our energies are spent in avoiding the cross then how can we, how will we experience resurrection life? And how will we be free to give this life to others?
  + Jesus was wrongly criticized, evaluated and judged as a failure, when in truth He was perfectly executing the will of God.
  + Are you pursuing God’s will? If you are don’t let yourself be ‘nailed’ as a failure by the criticism of others due to the seeming lack of success… As it was in the case of Jesus… Sunday is coming!
  + We read that Jesus was stripped of His mortal clothing (verse 34)… He allowed all His mortality to be stripped away so He could abolish death and bring life and immortality to light.
* “but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,” **2 Timothy 1:10 NASB**
  + Jesus deals with the two thieves He makes a convert, (verse 39-43) and Paradise is promised.
  + Darkness, death and the veil of the temple is torn.
    - The 6th hour… people are going to be in the temple to pray… Imagine what happened when the curtain to the other court is pulled back and people saw the Holy of Holies for the first time ever!!
* “Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship, but into the second, only the high priest *enters* once a year, not without *taking* blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit *is* signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing, which *is* a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they *relate* only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.But when Christ appeared *as* a high priest of the good things to come, *He entered* through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” **Hebrews 9:6-12 NASB**
* “Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” **Hebrews 10:19-22 NASB**
* The declaration of the centurion (verse 47)
  + He began praising God (Remember he is an unbelieving gentile) and proclaiming that Jesus was innocent.
* The crowd found their way back home ‘beating their breast as they went’ (A sign of sorrow, grief, and anguish) (verse 48)
* The far-away friends of Jesus (verse 49) saw all that happened at a distance.
* Some simple conclusions
  + Plainly stated, Jesus was crucified for our sins in order to bring us to God… Have you found Him?
  + God will hold no sin against anyone if that person will simply trust in Jesus. If God forgives those who killed His only son, He will forgive you if you ask.