

At the Cross

Luke 23:44-49

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A. Love So Deep (vs. 44-46):

1. It was about the 6th – 9th hour when darkness fell - The saying “darkness fell” means that there was absolutely no presence of light; it was pitch dark. Compared to high-noon on any other day, it was completely dark.
2. The veil of the temple – The tall veil that separated the priest into the Holy of Holies was torn in two; impossible for human hands to achieve.
3. At the 9th hour - Even though Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross, His power was still at work. He may have been nailed to the cross physically but His deity, His creation power, and “all things being through Him and for Him,” (Colossians 1:16-17) was powerfully exhibiting itself.
4. Jesus cried out with a loud voice - With all the mocking, gambling over His garments, manifestations in the skies, and the extremely loud earthquake beneath Jesus, He spoke to His Father and everyone at the cross was still able to hear everything He said distinctively.
5. Father – Jesus the Christ spoke directly to the One who is the author of our spiritual birth without going to the High Priest. He is now our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1-2). Before taking His place at the right hand of the Father, He let the world know (totally offensive to Jewish leaders; even Christ forbid His disciples to call anyone father – Mt. 23:9) that He communicates directly with God (this is being done in the midst of supernatural power events surrounding everyone).
6. Said, “into your hands I commit my Spirit” – Jesus, right before the darkness lifted, at the ninth hour very loudly expressed to His Father that He placed His Spirit under complete power, authority and control. Christ said He would be the One “who laid His life down and picked it up again.” With possibly no blood left in His body Christ placed Himself as the One whose works had completed (John 14:9-12) for the glory of God.
7. Having said – Once Christ knew His Spirit was in “safe keeping,” He intensely and expressly breathed His last breath as fully God and fully human sinful flesh. All that the Father required of Him was finished (John 19:30).

B. Innocent (vs. 47):

1. What was done; prove – Nothing the centurion witnessed could have been man made. It had to be supernatural because no one can make darkness, no one can live without blood, no one can speak in the manner Christ did with all that was done to Him (He spoke to the thieves, to God, instructed John to care for His mother), and decided when to die. Out of all the people the centurion had witnessed die before him, this man had to be the very nature of God.

2. He began praising God – The centurion with “Jesus king of the Jews,” placed there by Pilate (he could have been viewed as a traitor) did not care about the risk; he continuously with no plans to stop, kept repeating how Christ displayed the excellent, perfect nature of God (praise; glorify). He was completely convinced with all that going on at the cross, that this was the self-revelation of all the goodness of God. This is amazing because he is from a nation that worshipped many gods.

3. Saying, certainly this man was innocent – The centurion, at the risk of his own life, repeatedly, as if he did not plan to stop talking expressly verbalized that Christ faithfully lived up to the standards of God, even while on the cross, and therefore violated no laws and as a result stood “just” before God. He is not the only person who found no guilt in Christ, Pilate said the same (Luke 23:4). Gentiles, a governor and a soldier found no guilt in Christ while Jewish leaders who studied the Old Testament all day said Christ was guilty. Just knowing the scriptures alone did not save them (John 5:39-40; 1 Corinthians 8:1-2). We have to believe with all our hearts (Romans 10:9).

C. Promise Fulfilled (vs. 48-49):

1. Who came together for this spectacle – After the testimony provided by a soldier, who was the last person anyone would expect to recognize Christ's innocence, there were still many people at the cross (unlike the Jewish leaders) who were taking into account all that was taking place. In other words, despite the fact many insulted Christ, there were those who were careful to take into account (they were not dismissive) the supernatural events and all that Christ was saying. They were not distracted by the ugly.

2. Return beating their breast – These individuals, who once said crucify Christ, now, after Christ hung dead on the cross, now are continuously going back to their homes constantly, violently giving blows to their breast. Their regret is deeply remorseful.

3. Acquaintances and the women – There were another group of individuals at the cross that don't leave like those who were deeply remorseful. Time seems to have stood still for them. These women who were followers of Christ seem like they planned to continually remain at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56, 61; 28:1-10; Mark 15:47). They were the ones at the tomb and Mary Magdalene remained there with no plans to leave until Christ spoke to her and sent her to the disciples (John 20:1-18).