

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 20, 2025

Credible

Many people believe that they are saved because they go to church. Salvation should always be the major focus of our lives. Salvation does not just deliver us to heaven (2 Corinthians 5:6-10), it delivers us from the effects of sin on this earth (Philippians 2:12-13). The ministry of the Holy Spirit that is poured into us at the point of salvation (Titus 3:4-8) can empower us with a peace that "surpasses understanding and guards our hearts in Christ Jesus...." (Philippians 4:7). The fruit of the Spirit strengthens us no matter what we go through (Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 3:16-17) and blesses us with eternal rewards.

Jesus our Savior made salvation believable. On a witness stand material evidence, an eyewitness account overrides all speculation. Eyewitnesses included Roman soldiers, not just the disciples, or those who faithfully remained at the crucifixion. On the day Christ died, many people saw those who got up from the grave and darkness covered the earth. Lazarus' resurrection was days before Christ's resurrection and there were many witnesses, including those who refused to believe in Christ (John 12:1-19). After three days, Christ was resurrected and revealed Himself to 500 people, who then lived many years after the resurrection. To reject Christ is not to reject a religion, it is a rejection of a person who vividly displayed He is life (John 3:16-21). All of this was discussed 600 years before Christ ever walked on earth by well-respected prophets including Daniel. This is why Paul would say ".....How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things." (Romans 10:15)

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also....." (1 Cor 15:3-10; NASU)

John Stott suggests, "Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection. It was the resurrection which transformed Peter's fear into courage and James' doubt into faith (His brothers who once did not believe in Christ; Matthew 12:46; John 7:5). It was the resurrection which changed the Sabbath into Sunday and the Jewish remnant into the Christian Church. It was the resurrection which changed Saul the Pharisee into Paul the apostle and turned his persecution into preaching."

So if you have not confessed this prayer please do so today; "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom 10:9; NASU)



UPCOMING Events

COVENANT KEEPERS MARRIAGE MINISTRY RETREAT — MAY 16TH-18TH, 2025
Join the Marriage Ministry May 16th-18th for a "Weekend to Remember" presented by Family Life at the Houston Marriot in Sugar Land. **Register at <https://events.familylife.com/event/Houston2025>.** For more information on the LWFC Marriage Ministry email lwfcmarriagemin@gmail.com.

SPRING TECH WORKSHOPS — ROBOTICS
We are making STEM fun at LWFC! Parents sign up your kids, ages 5-13 years old, for our robotics class on Saturday May 10th from 10AM-1PM. **Register at <https://bit.ly/LWFCKidsRobotics> or on the events page of our website.** For more information contact Sharon Daniels at sdaniels@pvamu.edu

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST—MAY 3RD
Join the Women's Ministry and Prayer Ministry Saturday May 3rd, at 9 a.m. for their annual prayer breakfast. **Cost is \$10 for this event.** Register online at bit.ly/4ifednZ or on the LWFC Events Page. Email wog77088@gmail.com for more information.

SUMMER ADVENTURE 2025
Calling all young explorers, artists, and scientists! ABC Word Academy and LWCA are bringing learning and unforgettable experiences to life with our action-packed Summer Adventure Program including NASA & STEM Explorations, art classes, performing arts, and outdoor fun. Register your children, ages 4-12 today! **Call (281) 445-9673 or register online at <http://tinyurl.com/LWFCSummerCamp>.**

JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP
Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the **BAND APP** to stay connected throughout the year ahead. Use the link below to join: <https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fd0>
For more information, contact **Angela Holmes** at angholmes32@gmail.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"At the Cross"
Luke 23:44-49

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.
Infants—6th grade

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:15 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY
e 7:30 PM

At the Cross
Luke 23:44-49

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.

B. Innocent (v. 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 Christs’ 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).



\$10

PRAYER MINISTRY & WOMEN OF GRACE MINISTRY

PRAYER BREAKFAST

MAY 3RD 9AM-12PM

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT WOG77088@GMAIL.COM

REGISTER AT BIT.LY/4IFEDNZ

WOMEN OF GRACE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

JUNE 7th | 9AM-1PM

Bread of Life

2019 Crawford St.

Houston, TX 77002

LAST DAY TO REGISTER ONLINE IS 4/30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WOG77088@GMAIL.COM AND REGISTER AT <https://bit.ly/3Ch6m7>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Joyce Newsome & family, Alton Smith & family, Evelyn Harvey & family, Latricia White & family, Beverly Shaw & family, Leon Brooks & family, Jeffrey Allen & family, and Vivian Jackson & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptist, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Elsie Starks, Sandra Phillips, Ruth

AT THE CROSS

Luke 23:44-49

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