

The Crucifixion Through Jesus' Eyes

by Doug Hamilton

The four gospels of the New Testament enlightens us to the life of Christ with great detail, but there is so much more according to the apostle John. *John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.*

If one is not careful while examining the life of Christ, they could actually overlook the supreme historical fact for which Jesus came into the world. As the apostle Paul emphasizes in *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...* It is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus that is the core of the Christian faith. This is not only what Christians are to celebrate on this day, but every day that God allows us to live on this earth.

In this lesson I would like to do something a bit different than what you might have studied in the past. We tend to view the death, burial and resurrection through our eyes, but in this lesson we will view "The Crucifixion Through Jesus' Eyes", hence the title of the lesson. Let us attempt to view three events through the eyes of Jesus, His death, His burial and His resurrection.

1. Jesus' Death through His eyes

a) Betrayal

- a. Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶ From then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.
- b. Jesus knew in advance of this betrayal. *John 6:70-71 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"⁷¹ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.*
- c. He knew of Judas' betrayal before Judas was even born. *Zech 11:12 I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages.*
- d. The event that kicked off the day of death was a man named Judas, walking up to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and kissing Him on the cheek to betray Him. Jesus loved this man's soul and included him in His inner circle of disciples, yet allowed him to sell Him out.

Question: Jesus, why did you allow Judas to do such a thing?

Answer: Because I loved him with all my heart.

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b) Injury

- a. John 19:1-6 Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him.² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him;³ and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face.⁴ Pilate came out again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him."⁵ Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!"⁶ So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!"
- b. The passage said that Jesus was scourged. This involved beating with a stick and a flagellum. The flagellum was a bundled cord of leather strips with bits of bone, glass and metal at the end. Being whipped by this would tear off ribbons of skin from the recipients back and legs, leaving raw flesh exposed to bleed out.
- c. To mock Him in his pain, the Roman soldiers wound a crown of thorns upon His head. These thorns could have been about two inches long and would have dug through the flesh to the skull. The pain would have been severe and blood would have trickled down the front of His face. Yet through the blood that ran into His eyes, he still did not revile. He loved those Roman soldiers whom hurt Him just as much as His apostles.
- d. When they nailed Him through His hands and feet, Jesus still had compassion for them, saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). They divided His clothes up for spoil and smacked Him in the face, yet He uttered no threats.

Question: Jesus, why would you allow them to hurt you in such a way?

Answer: You don't understand Doug. You might see the blood running down my face and into my eyes, but I see them through the same blood and experience compassion, mercy and forgiveness. Yes they hurt me, but I am willing to be patient in hope of them seeing the error of their way and spending eternity with Me. I love them so much!

c) Insult

- a. Matthew 27:39-44 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads⁴⁰ and saying, "You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him* and saying,⁴² "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him."⁴³ "HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE *Him* NOW, IF HE DELIGHTS IN

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HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " ⁴⁴ The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.

- b. There were many that insulted Jesus that days. There was never a time in Jesus' life when He was more taunted, mocked and insulted than on that day on the cross. It would have been so easy to want to yell something back or call ten thousand angels, but instead "while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously..." (1 Peter 2:23).

Question: Why did you allow them to insult You in such a way?

Doug, you do not understand that though they are sinners, I die for them (Romans 5:8). I love them with a greater love that calls for me to lay down My life for them.

d) Rejection

- a. Matthew 27:45-46 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"
- b. This was the loneliest moment in the life of Christ. From before time, God the Father and Jesus had been together. They were together in creation, the confirmation of the word and even in plan of salvation. *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5)*. During the last three hours of Jesus' life, while all the sins of the world were being transferred to the Christ, the sun went dark, symbolizing God turning His back on His only begotten Son. For the first and only time Jesus would be forsaken by His own Father.

Question: "Jesus, why did God have to turn His back on You in Your greatest hour of need?"

Doug, were you not listening to me when I said through prophesy centuries before in *Psalms 22:4-6 In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them. ⁵ To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed. ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.* I took the sins of the world upon me on that day because I loved them and wanted them to be with me forever.

2. Jesus' Burial through His eyes

- a. John 19:30 says "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." With that Jesus entered the Hadean realm of the dead (Acts 2:31). At that very moment of entering Hades, the seventy-five foot high veil in the temple torn from top to

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bottom, symbolizing the reality that He went into the temple as the high sacrifice and High priest, taking the sins of the world with Him (Mt 27:51). Entering the waiting place of the dead (Hades) was such a cataclysmic event that the earthquake in reverence and a soldier at the cross proclaims "Surely Jesus was the Son of God" (Mt 27:54).

- b. What did Jesus see in Hades? He could see all the condemned and the saved that went to the grave before Him (Luke 16:26). Paul indicated in Philippians 2:10 that it is Christ's desire to have all who will live, who will live and who did live to glorify God; therefore He preached the message of the gospel to all, the faithful and the condemned (1 Peter 3:19; Jude 6). To the saved it was a message of hope and to the lost it was a message of condemnation.

Question: Jesus, why did you have to experience the grave on my behalf?

Answer: I did so because I could not acquire the keys to Hades otherwise. I love you and wanted you freed from the power of the devil (Hebrews 2:14-15). I wanted you to have the resurrection unto life and not judgments (John 5:28-29). I did this because I love all human beings so very, very much.

3. Jesus' Resurrection through His eyes

- a. John 20:1-10 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; ⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. ⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.
- b. Place yourself in Jesus' position of the resurrection. With the keys of Hades in hand and with one turn of the wrist, you leave Hades, taking possession of the new body through the Spirit of God (Roman 8:11). You open your eyes in the tomb and see an angel rolling back the millstone. The burial wrappings that bound you in death are miraculously passed through. You have no pain, sorrow or concerns in any way.

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Question: Jesus, why did You have to come out of the tomb in such a way?

Answer: Doug, did you not believe when I said in Luke 24:7 that I would be "*delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again?*" I did this in such a way so that you would know that I am truly the Son of God with power (Romans 1:5). That is why I immediately appeared to so many, for their heart was broken and I wanted them to have a message of hope that I was "alive forevermore" (Rev 1:18). "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Out of love I had to empty that grave, giving you the greatest gift, the hope of the resurrection of life.

Simply put, from Jesus' point of view, the death, burial and resurrection was and is all about love. He loves us so much that he was willing to be betrayed, denied, insulted, beaten, crucified, sent to Hades and resurrect from the dead on our behalf so we might spend eternity with Him. *1 John 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*