

## Lecture 29 – Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8*

### Key Terms

Cross, covenant curse of God

### Objectives

\*To describe the prophetic work of Christ on the cross, locating key passages to support your description

### Lead Questions

What is the meaning of the cross? How would you explain it to your post-modern neighbor or co-worker? What might be their objections to your claims? How would you answer their question, “Why should I care?”

### Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

#### I. The Meaning of the Cross

- A. Our loss of sensitivity to the cross
- B. The physical pain, and why the Bible says nothing about it
- C. Details of time and place (see D. A. Carson, *Commentary on John*)
- D. The covenant curse of God (Deut. 21:23)

#### II. Jesus’ Tormentors (Matt. 27:25-44)

- A. Unintended truths (irony: the correct interpretation of events is opposite of apparent meaning)
  1. Jews’ cry, “Let his blood be on our heads.”
  2. The soldiers’ mockery: “King of the Jews” in robe, crown and title
  3. The Jewish mockery: “He cannot save himself” and the necessity of the atonement
- B. The last temptation of Jesus is like the first - avoid the cross.

#### III. The Words of Jesus: His Prophetic Work, Interpreting the Cross

- A. The cry of dereliction has startling language that must be explained (Matthew 27:46).
  1. “My God, my God” rather than “Father” is phrasing that suggests separation.
  2. Allusion to prophetic Psalm 22?
  3. The truth of the cry
  4. The mystery of the cry
  5. The obedience even in the cry (Sibbes: “Jesus was never more obedient...”)
  6. The triumphant finale: “It is finished,” and “Father, into your hands...” (more below)
- B. Final words in Luke and John
  1. Into your hands, Luke 24:46
  2. It is finished, John 19:30

#### IV. After the Cross

- A. Special events (Matt. 27:51-53)
  1. Earthquake
  2. Veil
  3. Tombs
- B. Scene in Jerusalem - The four witnesses, and the four types of response to this day
  1. Mockers, Jewish leaders (Matt. 27:54-56)
  2. Soldiers
  3. Women at the cross
  4. One Roman soldier

*How are these four responses representative of modern reactions to the cross? Had you been there, how might you have responded to them? Which group would you most likely have been a part of?*

C. The interpretation of the cross

1. Matthew: crucifixion as climactic rebellion of Jews
2. Mark: the Roman centurion's confession; hurrying forward
3. Luke: This is necessary, for forgiveness to come
4. John: The hour has come for the seed to fall