

CALVARY'S PROCLAMATION

Text: Hebrews 12: 22-24

Key Word: Proclamation

Key Thought: Calvary Proclaims a Number of Wonderful Truths

The cross of Jesus Christ is a place of celebration. We will never understand the full scope of what was accomplished on the cross until we get to heaven. There is enough though, that we do know to cause us to celebrate. It was a time of intense sorrow before the crucifixion. But after the cross it was a **time of jubilation**.

*"weeping may remain (KJV - endure) for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning."*

Psalm 30:5

What took place at Calvary had a powerful and clear message. Certain things would catch the eye of anyone present. They would stand out against the backdrop of the agony being displayed. **What Was Clearly Proclaimed at Calvary?**

- I. THE CROSS**
- II. THE NAILS**
- III. THE GROUND**

I. THE CROSS

You will not find the word "**cross**" in the Old Testament. God knew that it wouldn't have any meaning outside of the Lord dying on it. Yet traditions flourish about the cross of Jesus which I believe take away from its valuable account in Scripture. Roman Catholic tradition seems to exceed all others.

******* They believe that Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, discovered the cross of Jesus in 325 AD. She was 79 years of age. It was found as a result of an excavation party that she had organized.

They went to the traditional site of our Lord's crucifixion and found 3 crosses. Upon touching the cross of our Saviour a miracle of healing took place. They proclaimed that they not only found the cross but also "*the holy nails.*"

(Contd.)

I. THE CROSS (Contd.)

Helena had a church built over the site and deposited the main part of the cross over the "*traditional site.*" Of the remainder, a portion was inserted into the head of a statue of Constantine. Other portions were placed in another new church built in Rome called "*Santa Crose.*"

Fragments of what they call "*the true cross*" can be found in many Roman Catholic churches in several countries. Many other small fragments were sold to wealthy Catholics that were blended with other jewels and gold and wore as relics. It became known as the "*multiplication of the cross.*" ***

The cross does not need to be multiplied. Its message cannot be added to. We have had to change mankind's symbol of the cross since the death of Jesus Christ. Scriptures tell us that the cross was despised in the Old Testament.

"If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, 23. you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance."

Deuteronomy 21:22,23

Jesus took all the shame of the cross upon Himself when He bore the cross of Calvary.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

Galatians 3:13

Though, it's not **the empty cross** that should excite us - it should be **the empty tomb**. His valiant act almost 2000 years ago should cause us to celebrate.

"He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

Galatians 3:14

I. THE CROSS (Contd.)

The cross grew in significance only because our Lord's blood stained its grains. It was not the wood but rather the **crimson pigment** that spoke volumes to those who stood in amazement. The cross told the people that He would bear our sorrow and become victorious.

*"And having disarmed the powers and authorities he made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them by the cross.**"*

Colossians 2:15

II. THE NAILS

It was not only the bloodstained cross but also the nails that carried a message. What was the message of the nails? Thomas recognized that the nails were very significant.

*"**Unless I see the nail marks in his hands** and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."*

John 20:25

What happened to Thomas when he saw the scars in His Master's hand? Remember that Thomas was good Jewish man who followed the teaching of Judaism very closely. Jesus came to show him a better way. The law was a difficult taskmaster to live under. **The nails were able to penetrate the requirements of the Mosaic law.**

*"13. ". . . He forgave us all our sins ,
14. having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us; **he took it away, nailing it to the cross.**"*

Colossians 2:14

The law can be portrayed through the blood of Abel that required justice for all. **Abel's blood was like the nails that penetrated the body of our Lord. They were hard and cold. They pierced our Lord's body without regard to the excruciating pain and damage they would create.**

Jesus was the only One who could change the deadly force of those iron nails. **No human being was able to remove the destructive force of the Law. It took the blood of His body to soften its damage.** All sin was cancelled as Jesus was nailed to the tree and died for our sins.

III. THE GROUND

The ground speaks of a common level. It is here that we stand alone. We often speak of having "*a common ground to stand on.*" This is where our true height is seen. **There is no added elevation for anyone on level ground.**

Our Lord's cross was placed upon the same ground that the crowd was standing upon. There was nothing spectacular about the ground of Golgotha. It was a rocky area that was intermingled with common land.

When Abel was murdered by his brother Cain, his blood spilt to the ground on the Eastern side of the Garden of Eden. Those stains were never hidden from the sight of God.

"Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

*11. **Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.***

*12. **When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.***

Genesis 4:10-12

The blood of Abel kept the ground around Eden permeating with vengeance. It was the old "tit for tat - you kill my dog I'll kill your cat." The Mosaic law kept this attitude alive.

"Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death . . .

*23. **If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life,***

*24. **eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,***

*25. **burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.***

Exodus 21:12, 23-25

Before our Lord's blood stained the ground of Golgotha, this earth knew only the message of revenge. Calvary had a new message to proclaim. A better message. A life-giving message. **Our Lord's blood graced the line that separated man from God. It offered a bridge to life. It spoke of a new mediation.**

III. THE GROUND (Contd.)

"to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

Hebrews 12:24

Jesus' blood did not say "**judge them**" but rather "**judge Me!**" **The blood of Jesus does not ask for vengeance, it desired forgiveness.** The stained ground said "*let me bear the punishment of what others have done.*" It took our Lord's precious blood to accomplish this mammoth task. Ground in itself may bring forth life but our Lord's blood soaked the ground bringing forth life more abundantly.

We can be so thankful to Jesus for the blood that He shed at Calvary. Without the blood we would simply have a cross, nails, and common ground. But because of the blood these symbols have taken on a new meaning.

Stained Cross - all sorrow can be conquered
Stained Nails - the righteous requirements of the law are fully met
Stained Ground - forgiveness has conquered vengeance

Have you experienced the life changing power that God has made available through what His blood has purchased for you? If not, I invite you to make a decision today to invite Jesus into your life and receive the forgiveness that was purchased for you at Calvary. Why wait another day? **The Proclamation of Calvary** is still as effective today as it was on the day of our Lord's crucifixion.

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Date: Nov 1/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: The Wonderful Cross - D

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INTRODUCTION: *Psalm 30:5*

What Was Clearly Proclaimed at Calvary?

I. THE CROSS - *Deuteronomy 21:22,23; Galatians 3:13; Galatians 3:14; Colossians 2:15*

II. THE NAILS - *John 20:25; Colossians 2:14*

III. THE GROUND - *Genesis 4:10-12; Exodus 21:12, 23-25; Hebrews 12:24*

Cross - all sorrow can be conquered
Nails - the righteous requirements of the law are fully met
Ground - forgiveness has conquered vengeance