



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 23:33-49

LESSON: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS—March 24, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is both the most shocking event and the most wonderful event of human history.

1. It is the most shocking event in that the creature murdering the Creator.
2. It is the most wonderful event in that it is the Creator saving the creature

23:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. Jesus is led away by the soldiers outside the city walls to a place called Golgotha which means *“the place of a Skull”* to be crucified. Jesus was now weak. He could not carry His cross the whole way. The soldiers seized a man named Simon from the city called Cyrene that he might bear it after Jesus. They forced and laid the cross upon Simon to carry the cross of wood behind Jesus. The man who takes up the cross of Jesus will be converted. Simon probably became a Christian because of this experience.

1. This was God’s provident plan. Nothing happens by chance when it comes to God!
2. Simon was apparently a pilgrim coming to celebrate the Passover.
3. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus (**Mk.15:21**).

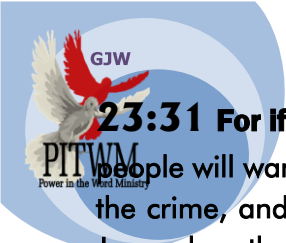
23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. There was this great crowd of mourners that followed Jesus, and in this crowd were many women crying and they weeping because of Jesus (actually feeling the pain of Jesus; feeling the depth of the Lord’s suffering). For a person to have godly sorrow, a person must understand why Christ suffered and why he had to bear the sins of the world. **2 Cor.7:10** (NIV) says *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”*

23:28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. The point of this in Jesus’ weakness was a warning of Jerusalem’s doom, and coming judgment. It was so on Jesus’ mind that He turned to the women and said, *“Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep on my behalf. Weep on behalf of yourselves and on behalf of your children.”*

23:29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. A terrible time will come, and people will say that the barren women are blessed, for they had never had children; never gave birth, and whose breasts had never fed babies.

23:30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. Jesus had a whole prophecy warning against them. That time would be so awful that people would want to die. Mankind will beg the mountains to fall on them and crush them, and the hills to bury them alive.





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23:31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?— Looking at a time when people will want to die (v.30), ¹ Jesus is comparing that present time with the future disaster. He was innocent of the crime, and the Romans knew it, yet, they still crucified Him. However, it would be so much worse for the Jews when the Romans considered the nation guilty. Fire spreads much more quickly through a forest when the trees are dry. So, Jesus warned them that the future events would be much worse than the present situation. People are doing these things when their lives are as pleasant as a green tree. Then they will do worse things when their circumstances become as bad as a dry tree.

23:32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. The Son of God was there to be crucified between two criminals (malefactors). Jesus is counted as a sinner that He might bear the sin of many. The soldiers had led two other men that they would crucify with Jesus.

LESSON: I. MOCKING RESPONSE BY THE CROWD LUKE 23:33-38

23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. They've come to the place called Calvary, "the *Skull", where they crucified Jesus with the two criminals. One criminal was on the right side of Jesus, and the other criminal was on his left.

The Crucifixion was the summit of sin and love. The crucifixion was the most horrible of deaths. There was the pain of the driven spikes forced through the flesh of Jesus' hands and feet. There was the weight of His body jolting and pulling against the spikes as the cross was lifted and rocked into place. There was the scorching sun and the unquenchable thirst gnawing away at His dry mouth and throat. There was the blood oozing from His scourged back, his thorn crowned brow, and His stick beaten head, and more...

In the simplest of terms, Christ was crucified for our sins, along with the two criminals in order to bring us to God. He was dying because of them and because of all other men. Why? - Because all men are criminals against God, rebelling against Him and breaking His commandments.

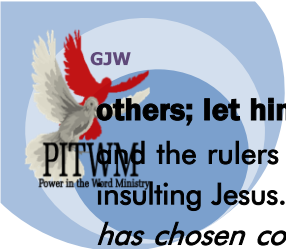
23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Jesus said a prayer for his enemies. This is a picture of love and forgiveness to the end. He had come for the very reason to stand as the Mediator between God and sinful man. Therefore upon the cross, He prayed for those who stood below crucifying Him. Jesus said, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" Let's not pass this too quickly. The men crucifying Him did not know what they were doing. They did not know who He was. **1 Cor.2:8** says None of the princes of this world knew : for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. Because of His death, God would be able to forgive the sins of men, even those who were now crucifying Him! It was prophesied in **Isaiah 53:12c** "*...and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors.*" The most wonderful truth in all the world is this: God will hold no sin against any man, if that man will personally trust His Son. If God forgives the men who killed His only Son, God will forgive any for any sin, if that man will just ask!

The soldiers stripped Jesus, dividing His clothes among themselves. The symbolism in this act showed that Jesus allowed all His morality to be stripped so that He might abolish death and bring life and immortality to light! They gambled to decide which of the clothes each would take. **Psalm 22:18** says "*They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*"

23:35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved

¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/luke22-24-im-lbw.htm>
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others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the rulers (the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders of the people) laughed, taunting and insulting Jesus. They said, *“He saved other people. Let Him save himself, if He is Christ, the Messiah whom God has chosen could do it.”* The people and religionists totally misunderstood Jesus’ claim to be the Savior and Messiah. ²All of this was true. Jesus could have saved Himself., but the rulers did not understand that Jesus came to die on our behalf. It was God’s plan that Jesus should die because of the sins of all people.

23:36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,— The soldiers also did the same thing to Jesus. Here, the soldiers use vinegar (sour wine) in some form of mockery with Him.

23:37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. Again the soldiers still mocking Jesus by saying, *“If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”*

23:38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Therefore a sign was placed above Jesus’ head, saying, *“This is the king of the Jews.”* The sign was written in three languages:

- **Greek**, the language of many people who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover.
- **Latin**, the language of government and it was the official language of the Romans.
- And **Hebrew**, the language of the Jews.

II. MIXED RESPONSE BY THE CRIMINALS LUKE 23:39-43

23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. Insults and unbelief just spreads! Now, one of the criminals on the cross with Jesus takes his shot at Jesus. He begins to insult Jesus by saying, *“You pretend to be the Christ. If you are, then save yourself and us.”* This was all he knew how to do, even at the brink of death, and that is to insult someone he hardly knew.

23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?— However, the other criminal protested at this and said, *“Don’t you fear God?”* Meaning you ought to be afraid of God because *“you are suffering the same punishment; penalty as he does.”*

23:41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. The one criminal goes on to say *“Our punishment is fair. We are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has not done anything wrong.”* This one criminal speaks without mocking Jesus, but rebukes the other criminal on the cross.

23:42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. Then he said, *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your *kingdom.”* He understood who Jesus is. He understood that Jesus had a kingdom, and he just wanted Jesus to remember him; not rescue him from his cross or from death.

23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. All it took was to believe who Jesus says He is, for Jesus said to him, *“I tell you the truth. Today you will be with me in paradise.”* Yes, he would die that day and he would go to be with Jesus in Paradise. For this criminal would

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have eternal life. He had confessed his sin in verse 41. He asked Jesus into his heart in verse 42. And Jesus answered Truly... Paradise meant to people the place where God's people live with Him after death.

III. MOVING RESPONSE BY THE CENTURION LUKE 23:44-49

23:44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. From about the 6th hour to the ninth hour (Noon to 3pm) there was an awesome darkness that came over all the earth. It was a symbol of separation and loneliness. The darkness told man something: 1) Man was separated from the light. 2) Man stood all alone.

23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. Even the sun became dark and did not shine. The Jewish day consisted of 12 hours. The start of the day was sunrise. The end of the day was at sunset. Sin deserved no light from God's presence. And the veil meaning curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom. It separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. This symbolized that it was torn by an act of God Himself which allows an opened way for anybody to personally come beyond the curtain to God. Read **Hebrews 10:19-25**.

23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. ³Jesus had done all that he had come to do. He cried out in (**Jh.19:30**), *"It is Finished"*; then He gave His own life to God His Father. Here Jesus cried out with a loud voice that the people could hear Him saying, *"Father, into your hands I place my spirit."* When He had said this He took His last breath and His body died. His life and His Spirit went to be with God.

23:47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man. The centurion officer in charge of the crucifixion at the foot of the cross saw what had happened, and he began to praise God saying, *"Certainly, this man was a good man."* The glory of God will always be seen. ⁴These things caused him to be afraid and he praised God. Now he knew that Jesus was innocent of any crime. Jesus' death convinced him that Jesus was someone special. He called Jesus a *"righteous man."* The word *"righteous"* means someone who is truly good. The centurion was a Gentile. He symbolized all who were to confess Christ in coming generations.

23:48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned. The crowds had gathered to see this sight. They came for entertainment, but after seeing what happened; what was done, they struck themselves because they were so sad and stricken in their conscience. And they went away.

23:49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things. But all those people who knew Jesus stood at a distance. This included the women who had come with Him from Galilee. They still loved and cared, no matter what. They symbolized that Jesus' life was not in vain. They watched afar off seeing all that happened.

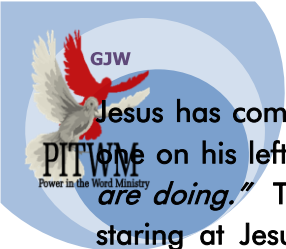
SUMMARY:

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Jesus has come to the place called Calvary to be crucified with the two criminals: One on the right side and one on his left. 34Jesus said a prayer for his enemies: *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" The soldiers stripped Jesus, dividing His clothes among themselves. 35The people stood there staring at Jesus and the rulers (the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders of the people) laughed, taunting and insulting Jesus. 36And the soldiers also did the same thing to Jesus. The soldiers mocked Him by giving Jesus vinegar (sour wine). 37Again the soldiers still mocking Jesus by saying, *"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."* 38A sign was placed above Jesus' head, saying, *"This is the king of the Jews"* written in Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew to mock Him **(23:33-43)**.

39Now, one of the criminals on the cross with Jesus takes his shot at Jesus. He begins to insult Jesus by saying, *"You pretend to be the Christ. If you are, then save yourself and us."* 40However, the other criminal protested at this and said, *"Don't you fear God, you are suffering the same punishment; penalty as he does."* 41The other criminal goes on to say, *"Our punishment is fair. We are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has not done anything wrong."* 42Then he said, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* 43All it took was to believe who Jesus says He is. And Jesus said to him, *"I tell you the truth. Today you will be with me in paradise"* **(23:39-43)**.

From about the 6th hour to the ninth hour (Noon to 3pm) there was an awesome darkness that came over all the earth. 45Even the sun became dark and did not shine. 46Jesus had cried with a loud voice, saying, *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."* 47The centurion officer in charge of the crucifixion at the foot of the cross saw what had happened, and he began to praise God saying, *"Certainly, this man was a good man."* 48The crowds had gathered to see this sight, and seeing what happened, they struck themselves because they were so sad and stricken in their conscience. 49But all those people who knew Jesus stood at a distance. This included the women who had come with Him from Galilee for they watched afar off seeing all that happened **(23:44-49)**.