

“The Greatest Place in the World – Calvary”

Luke 23:32-37; John 19:16-36

Many places in the world are important for their natural beauty, their historical significance or their sophisticated advancement. Calvary/Golgotha is not important for these reasons, but for its spiritual meaning.

Calvary is the Place of Fulfilled Scripture

In the Old Testament (first half of the Bible) God made many predictions of how His Son would come and what would happen to Him. Some of these many predictions about His death are recorded in John 19 – for example, in verse 24 they *gambled for His clothes* like Psalm 22:18 said they would; in verses 23-29 they *gave Him sour wine* in response to His thirst like Psalm 22:15 and Psalm 69:21 said they would; and in verse 36 we discover that *none of His bones were broken* in keeping with Exodus 12:46 and Psalm 34:20.

That all these predictions were fulfilled is an amazing indication that Calvary was part of the plan of God, and that God’s Word really fits together.

Calvary is the Place of Fierce Scorn

Hardly anyone showed any sympathy for the Lord Jesus at the cross – the leaders sneered (Luke 23:35) and the soldiers mocked (Luke 23:36) and others just stood watching (Luke 23:35). Even the disciples of the Lord ran away. It really shows us the terribleness and sinfulness of the human heart.

Some people will say that if they were there they would not have done the same thing. But often like the people who just stood there watching, these people know about the salvation God has provided through the cross, but they delay to accept God’s offer – this is terribly hurtful to the Lord who suffered so much to save us, and so even in that case the cross shows us our terrible attitude to the Lord Jesus!

Calvary is the Place of Finished Salvation

The Lord said a number of things while on the cross, but one of His last sayings before dying was “It is finished” (John 19:30). This statement is a complete contrast to what religions tell us: they say we must try and best and work hard to get peace and favour with God; whereas the Lord Jesus tells us that the work that will bring us peace and salvation has already been FINISHED at the cross! We do not have work to get salvation, just believe the one who saves the sinner! Romans 4:5

There are many examples of things being finished in the Bible:

- 1) **A cup that is fully drunk** – think of each one of your sins contributing to a cup of judgment and punishment which you must drink in hell. At the cross Jesus drank the cup, and He finished it (John 18:11), so that there is no more punishment for you!
- 2) **A debt that is fully paid** – think of each one of your sins as a debt which you owe to God, a debt which you could never pay yourself. At the cross, the Lord Jesus paid it IN FULL!
- 3) **A battle that is fully won** – think of sin as a great battle which you cannot win (sin will always be an enemy). At the cross, Christ won the battle completely, and He will give that victory to those who trust Him!

**DID YOU EVER REALIZE THAT
THE WORK REQUIRED FOR *YOUR* SALVATION IS ALREADY FINISHED?**

Calvary is the Place of Forgiven Sinners

Over and over again the Lord Jesus said “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). Despite all the pain and suffering the soldiers had given to Jesus, He did not fight back, but responded with gentleness and forgiveness. Calvary is the place of forgiveness.

A personal example of this is the thief who was crucified beside Christ. He knew he was dying and when he heard Christ speak of forgiveness, it touched him deeply. When he asked the Lord for a place in His kingdom, Christ immediately responded with a wonderful promise to him: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). If you turn to Christ who died at Calvary like this man did, you will find that

Calvary is the place where people may have their sins forgiven, since it was there that the Lord died to wash away our sins!