

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

March 20, 2016

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is our Redeemer

Isaiah 44:6-8: "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. And who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; yes, let him recount it to Me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any *other* Rock? I know of none.'"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Is. 12:4-6

+We Adore Him

Hymn #235, "All Glory, Laud, And Honor"

We Confess Our Sin

O Holy God, mighty in power and ineffable in majesty, whose Name is great, and whose goodness passes knowledge- to You alone be praise and adoration, from the hosts of heaven and all who dwell upon the earth.

We humble ourselves in Your presence, confessing our unworthiness and sin. We have not sought first Your kingdom and righteousness; we have been fretful and troubled about many things, and have neglected those who need Your peace. We have not always loved our neighbor as ourselves, nor always done to others what we would have them do to us. We have yielded to temptation; the sin we should have hated we have committed in Your sight.

Most gracious God, our heavenly Father, forgive us we entreat You. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and renew a right spirit within us, through the grace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #650, "I Will Sing Of My Redeemer"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Ex. 25:1-2

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #449, "We Rest On Thee"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Josh. 1:8

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #170, "Fairest Lord Jesus"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

The Powerful Message of Easter, Pt. 2

Matthew 27:45-54

Study Notes for March 20, 2016

I. Introduction

II. The Powerful Message of Easter, Mt. 27:45-54.

A. A Message of Judgment, v. 45.

B. A Message of Sacrifice, vv. 46-49.

1. The Sacrifice of Christ, v. 46.

The “Miracle of Sovereign Departure”

1. We know that Christ is not “a” god, but THE God (e.g., Jn. 20:28; 1 Jn. 5:20)!

=Jn. 20:28: when Thomas saw the resurrected Christ, he said, “My Lord and my God.”

=1 Jn. 5:20b: speaking of Christ, John said, “This is the true God and eternal life.”

2. And yet incarnate God prayed on the cross, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”

...how do we explain this?,,

The Significant of this “Sovereign Departure”- notice three elements to this text...

1. The Peculiar *DARKNESS*, v. 45.

2. The Peculiar *ADDRESS* of Christ: “My God”, v. 46.

3. The Peculiar *WORD*: “Forsake,” v. 46.

...these three elements combined suggest that a radical separation is occurring in our text- not one of essence but of communion! As Christ hung on that cross, the union of fellowship that formerly had characterized His relationship with the Father was severed.

The Purpose of this “Sovereign Departure”

Is. 53:5

2 Cor. 5:21

Rom. 3:25

*Propitiation- it is not a “wrath-dissipating sacrifice” but a “wrath-directed sacrifice” wherein the almighty, infinite, and eternal wrath of God on account of OUR SIN was met out fully on Christ Himself instead of the sinner!! This is why prior to the cross, Jesus struggled (Mt. 26:39); this is why He sweat drops of blood (Lk. 22:44)! On the cross, Jesus didn’t just appease/dissipate God’s wrath; He bore the full brunt of it in our place!!!

Rom. 2:5-6

MacArthur put it this way, “...nowhere in Scripture can we behold the reality of Jesus’ sacrificial death and the anguish of His separation from His Father more clearly and penetratingly than in His suffering on the cross because of sin. In the midst of being willingly engulfed in our sins..., He writhed in anguish not from the lacerations on His back or the thorns that still pierced His head or the nails that held Him to the cross but from the incomparably painful loss of fellowship with His heavenly Father that His becoming sin for us had brought.” (Matthew 24-28, pg. 271)

1 Pet. 2:24

A Beautiful Illustration: 1 Sam. 18:4-5

2. The Response of the Crowd, vv. 47-49.

a. Ridicule, vv. 47, 49.

Because Jesus was quoting the well-known Psalm- Ps. 22, a psalm of suffering- there could have been little doubt in the minds of those standing there as to what Jesus was saying. The crowds had been taunting Him with His claim to be God's Son (cf. v. 43) and thus an appeal for divine help using the words of Ps. 22 would not have been surprising or confusing. And so their saying, "This man is calling for Elijah," was not conjecture about what He said, BUT an extension of their cruel, cynical mockery. In fact connect the dots...

***Where We Live**

1. Isn't this the world's response to the cross? It is the epitome of folly (1 Cor. 2:14; 1:18)...
2. Accordingly, you think it is because of your inability to share truth more winsomely that people don't believe? It is not the messenger, but the message and the fact that Satan is actively blinding people from coming to the knowledge of the truth (2 Cor. 4:3-4)...

b. Pity, v. 48.

Based on our knowledge of Roman crucifixion, it is generally believed that the one who gave Christ this drink would have been one of the Roman guards stationed around Christ's cross.

Sour Wine

To this Roman soldier, Christ would have been a nothing... And yet, this soldier felt compassion. Why? Could it have been?...

...we do not know! For whatever reason, this soldier responded to the suffering of Christ with pity- which in itself is admirable, but in the broader context was about as beneficial as the mockings. For as we know: Christ did not die to be pitied... He died to save (Lk. 19:10)!

***Where We Live**

1. And yet, Pity is probably the most universal response that will be felt this Easter Season on the part of the religious in our day...
2. Yet listen, when Christ entered into His public ministry, the first words out of His mouth were not, "Pity me!" but "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). When the rich young ruler asked, "What must I do to be saved?", Christ did not say, "Pity me!" but "...sell your possessions and give [them] to the poor..." (Mt. 19:21)... Christ is not after our pity; He is after so much more!
3. And what is that? What is an appropriate response to the message of Easter?...

2 Cor. 5:14-15