

language of the people. The words are quoted from Ps. 22: 1. We cannot understand all that wrung this cry from the suffering Saviour. It was an intensified renewal of the agony at Gethsemane. This was the fourth of the seven words from the cross.

35. **Elias**—Either this was spoken by some one who did not understand "Eloi," or it was another bitter jest. In Matt. it is "This one calleth," expressing a contemptuous pointing at him. The anguish passed away, and he ran his memory back to see whether any word of prophecy, even the least, remained to be fulfilled, and recollecting Ps. 69: 21 he uttered the fifth word, "*I thirst*" (John 19: 28).

36. **Vinegar**—Light sour wine, the common beverage of the Roman soldiers. Jesus partook of it (John 19: 30). **Let alone**—According to Matt. the crowd say this, "Stop! don't give him anything to drink. See first,

whether Elias will help him." According to Mark, the man who offers the vinegar says it, "Let me alone, I will revive him, and preserve life till Elias comes." Immediately after receiving the wine Jesus uttered the sixth word, "*It is finished*" (John 19: 30).

37. **Cried with a loud voice**—Again the evangelist notes the strong, full tone of the voice. He did not die from exhaustion, but resigned his body to the grave with his seventh and last utterance, "*Father into thy hands I commend my spirit*" (Luke 23: 46). **Gave up the ghost**—Yielded up his spirit, a voluntary act. Then was the veil of the temple which concealed the Holy of Holies parted in twain from top to bottom, and the earthquake rent the rocks and opened the sepulchres. Seeing these things the centurion in command of the soldiers bore testimony to Jesus, and the mocking multitudes, awestruck, smote their breasts and turned homeward in silence.

LESSONS. 1. Jesus suffered pain that we might be delivered from sin's penalty. 2. Through his shame we are exalted to honor. 3. From him the Father's face was hidden that it might be made to shine on us. 4. He died, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. 5. We mock Christ's sufferings when we live in sin.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

Make the cross the centre of your teaching, Jesus bearing it, nailed to it, suffering on it. Do not dwell too much on the physical sufferings, or try to excite pity for him. But be sure that you make plain that he bore the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin. By changing the A in the upper part of the cross to THE and OUR and MY you can sustain the attention and emphasize the truth with an ever nearer and nearer personal application.

