

for them, even while He still lived; brought out too by Pilate's glibbing superscription; brought out, once more, by His companions in suffering, two shameless robbers. Could dishonor be carried further? It will be worth while to have the scholars find in what two points the scripture prophecies were here fulfilled, Ps. 22:18 and Isa. 53:12.

They mocked Him, vs. 29-32. Almost everyone joined in it; the passers-by (vs. 29, 30); the chief priests (vs. 31, 32); the malefactors, v. 32. Go, however, to the story of the penitent thief (Luke 23: 39-43) for a glimpse of light.

Then came A PAUSE—an amazing darkness and silence, for three hours. God's Son was suffering; all nature hid its face. If men mocked, God's universe mourned in sympathy with God's dying Son.

II. WHAT JESUS SAID. Only one of His sayings is given here (v. 34), and a hint of another, v. 37. The scholars might turn to the seven passages containing the seven sayings. These are they:—(1) Luke 23: 34; (2) Luke 23: 43; (3) John 19: 26; (4) the present passage; (5) John 19: 28; (6) John 19: 30; (7) Luke 23: 46. Hymn 57, Book of Praise, is a touching commentary on the seven sayings on the cross.

III. THE END OF IT ALL, v. 37. The cry was likely that of Luke 23: 46. And so died the Son of God. What does it all mean? Is there any better interpretation than Hymn 46, Book of Praise, especially its third verse:

"He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to Heaven
Saved by His precious blood."

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further helps under several headings.

Lesson Outline

THE DEATH OF CHRIST

I. Christ Crucified.

1. The place of the crucifixion.
2. The refusal of the offered opiate.
3. The parting of the garments.
4. The time of the crucifixion.
5. The accusation.

II. Christ Mocked.

1. By various classes (see Exposition).
2. Taunted with His helplessness.
3. Tempted to descend from the cross.

III. Christ Dying.

1. The three hours' darkness.
2. The hiding of God's face.
3. The quenching of the Saviour's thirst.
4. The last words.
5. The rending of the temple veil.
6. The centurion's testimony.

Lesson Points

All the streams of ancient history meet at Calvary; from Calvary spring the mightiest influences that move the modern world. v. 22.

Christ is the supreme Example of courage. v. 23.

People of every tongue can understand the language of the Cross. v. 26.

The sinless One alone can save the sinful. v. 27.

Patience is not impotence. v. 25.

Only the heart that feels its guilt will glory in the Cross. v. 32.

The soul of Christ's sufferings were the sufferings of Christ's soul. v. 34.

The darkened cross reveals God's heart of love. v. 38.

The magnet of Christ's redeeming love draws men to Him. v. 39.

From the Library

The cross was planted on Golgotha a dry, dead tree; but lo! it has blossomed like Aaron's rod; it has struck its roots deep down to the heart of the world, and sent its branches upwards, till to-day it fills the earth, and the nations rest beneath its shadow and eat its pleasant fruits.—Stalker.

What power there was in the dying Saviour, dying the most disgraceful death known, may be seen in this, that in His last agonies He drew to acknowledge Him a Jewish bandit and a Roman officer.—Lindsay.

Topics for Brief Papers

(To be ready on the day of the Lesson)

1. Christ's death a fulfilment of scripture.
2. The centurions of the New Testament.