

The Meaning Of Calvary

By David A. Clarke
(The Smithfield Herald)

The greatest theme of religion, the sublimest thought of man, the most unselfish act of love and sacrifice, the boldest declaration of freedom, forgiveness and mercy without strain; yet the most dastardly act of indifference, rejection, insane jealousy, hatred and crucifixion that has yet blighted the deeds of men are all embodied in Calvary to effect the most paradoxical mystery and design that is found anywhere in creative wisdom; thereby establishing beyond the reach of time the reconciliation and redemption of a wicked world, that by the act of sin and accumulated disobedience became lost and separated from God.

All the legally constituted courts of the land, organized to the point of power and perfection for the purpose of dispensing justice, together with the help of those most learned in the law, could have in no wise added to or taken from the free and voluntary act of Jesus to make Calvary central in the Christian religion.

It is a fact well established beyond any reasonable doubt that at least three ways other than Calvary were open to Jesus in making His kingdom a reality here on earth. To build an economic structure free from struggle and feed a hungry world would have made Him the greatest king of all time. He was offered the wealth and power of the world kingdoms and only for the act of allegiance to Satan. World honor and esteem could have been His for a spectacular descent from the pinnacle of the temple. He voluntarily, and without reservation or forethought of self-interest, accepted Calvary, an act which made Him eternally free and above the evil powers of this world.

Calvary is the hard way, the way of self-sacrifice, or self-discipline, self-surrender and obedience to the divine will which in the end becomes the title deed to Canaan and the final home of all sin-sick souls. But the mass of humanity seeks the easy road by the exercise of a puny and thin faith, a lukewarm attitude and sometimes an act of violence fashioned in the form of persecution and crucifixion. Often there is more of the Cross and Calvary in paganism and outside the church than may be found among the so-called brethren of the Christian faith.

The glory of world renown and human achievement is always fading like the beauty of a full-grown flower and vanishing like its fragrance, but the heroism of a human soul and life in struggle and conflict with the powers of evil lives on and with an immortality all its own. The death of a martyr lights a lamp that is never extinguished. The lone struggle against poverty, disease and calamity; the brave and humble soul who takes it upon himself to endure the treachery and betrayal of others has a dramatic appeal to the human heart. All humanity moves up to the foot of Calvary where the innocent suffer, bleed and die.

When the three Hebrew boys walked with dauntless courage to the door of a fiery furnace and, in complete resignation to a God in whom they placed implicit trust, stepped without hesitation into the burning flames, Calvary once again raised its head from the grime and blood of Golgotha and drew men together as brothers in a common redemption, and even centuries before it became a recorded fact in the history of religion.

Such conviction of free men will live on long after time is but a story and this world but a cinder, because Calvary is incarnate in the blood and soul of men and is mysteriously woven into the whole fabric of life.

Calvary is a wound inflicted on the heart of all humanity, a bleeding unto death, a suffering without personal guilt, a mutual shedding of blood for the universal atonement of all sin, that a lost world may find its way back to God.

Golgotha is but a point somewhere on the dividing boundary between that which is Christian and that which is pagan; a place of grinning skulls reflecting defiance against the hatred and injustice of man. Calvary is divine judgment visited on a sinful world but it also enunciates the truth that to receive we must give, to be loved we must love and to be forgiven we must also forgive.

Thieves may die on Golgotha for their crimes but only the righteous embrace the Cross. It may be rejected but none can escape the mighty impact of Calvary which stands today as the singular hope for the peace of the world and the brotherhood of all men.

The Holy Week Story: — They Crucified Him



AP Newsfeatures

AND THERE WERE also two other malefactors, led with Him to be put to death. 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. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him, and offering Him vinegar. And saying, If Thou be the king of the Jews, save Thyself. And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him saying, If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us. But the other rebuked him, and he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise. And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 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. Condensed from Luke 23: 32-46

Crabtree WMU Holds Meeting With Mrs. Brown

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Crabtree Baptist church met at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Brown, April 1, for a study course and all day meeting.

Potted flowers were used throughout the house as decorations.

The program started at 10:30 a. m. with a devotional, a song and prayer by Rev. Mr. Raby.

Mrs. W. V. Davis, president, was in charge of the meeting through the day. Mr. Raby taught "The Prophet of Little Cane Creek," for the study course. The meeting was then adjourned with prayer by Lawrence Brown.

A social hour was enjoyed by the guests and a lunch served by the hostess.

The meeting was called to order again at 2:30 by the president. A devotional was given by Mrs. Furman Noland, also in charge of the afternoon program. The regular meeting was in order.

Also organized was "The Heart Sister" into a club. A nominating committee was selected. Chairman, Mrs. Furman Noland, helpers were Mrs. Sam Greene and Mrs. Zemery Hoglen. The offering amounted to \$4.45.

The visitors present were Mrs. E. A. Medford and Mrs. Cash Medford of Iron Duff.

New member was Mrs. Bertha Green. Members present were: Rev. and Mrs. Raby, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brown, Mrs. Carlyle Davis, Mrs. Bertha Davis, Mrs. Furman Noland, Mrs. Sam Greene, Mrs. Orville Allen, Miss Cora Higgs, Miss Manilla Brown, Mrs. Silas Smart, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. W. V. Davis, Mrs. Zemery Hoglen, Mrs. Elsie Sanford and Mrs. Charles Noland.

In the presentation of the 300-year-old Oberammergau Passion Play this year 1,200 persons will take part and 800 will appear on the stage. According to the Hapag-Lloyd travel bureau, 60,000 of the 450,000 visitors attending will come from the United States.

Crocodile snares are weighted to pull the animal under water, where it drowns.

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M/Sgt. Jack Hogan And Family Sail Home From Japan

Sunday will be more than Easter to M/Sgt. Jack F. Hogan, and family. It will mean sailing for home from Japan, where they have been living for the past three years.

With Sgt. Hogan and wife, are their two daughters, Sylvia Dale, 4, and Sara Kay, six months old, who was born in Japan.

Mrs. Hogan is the former Miss Polly Francis, and joined her husband on Misowa Island two years ago.

Sgt. Hogan has been stationed at an airbase, and has been in service for 10 years. He served as a pilot during World War II, in both the European and Pacific theatres. He was stationed on Okinawa at the time Japan surrendered. He was at the time a member of a crew of a B-29.

Sgt. Hogan has just re-enlisted for another six years, and has been re-assigned to Tyndall Base, Panama City, Fla.

Tentative plans are for the Hogans to land at a west coast port about the 8th of May.

The Western North Carolinians liked Japan, except for the cold winters and short summers.

Sgt. Hogan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Hogan of route two.

Special couriers wearing distinctive uniforms serve as walking information desks in British railway stations, circulating among the crowds answering the questions of passengers.

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SMITH'S DRUG STORE

Dog Changes Homes
BOSTON (UP)—John Carusone knows where to go when his pet boxer dog is missing. The wandering dog has taken to the Animal Rescue League shelter the first few times he was lost. Now, he apparently thinks that is home and keeps returning there of his own accord.

IT'S COLD OUT THERE
SEATTLE, Wash. (UP)—Washington State motorists, caught in a prolonged cold spell, wondered what they could use besides antifreeze to protect their cars. Several reported that spare tires were frozen solid to tire wells in their autos' trunks.

FIRST 50 YEARS TOO HARD
PORTLAND, Me. (UP)—Mrs. Alice Patriquin, who would have observed her golden wedding anniversary next January, has sued for divorce on grounds of desertion.

One cotton bale averages 500 pounds. More than 26,500 bales are used to make handkerchiefs each year.

Next time you make stewed tomatoes, add a little Worcestershire sauce along with the salt and pepper for good flavor.

Cameras concealed in binoculars, canes, revolvers, and even in a necktie are included in a display of "detective" cameras at George Eastman House, the photographic institute in Rochester, N. Y.

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Although a full dividend was earned, only a half dividend was paid during seven quarters of 1933 and 1934 because of the uncertainty of conditions. The amount withheld was "caught-up" in 1936.

It is a matter of pride to us that 83.5 per cent of the holders of the Company's preferred stock are residents of the Carolinas.

Of the total of more than 31,000 stockholders of the Company, 6,500 are preferred stockholders, who own an average of 25 shares each. The 25,000 holders of the Company's common stock own an average of 49 shares each. The largest stockholder of the Company owns less than two per cent of the shares outstanding.

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY