

=BIBLE MOUNTAINS=

Lesson 4

Mount Calvary

INTRODUCTION: Calvary was the place where Jesus was crucified. Into it all the streams of history pour, and from it all the rivers of prophecy originate. It is the most important place in the entire world where the most important event in history took place. It was where our Saviour was crucified between two thieves.

- I. THE PLACE. Calvary was a place close to Jerusalem; in fact, it was just outside the northern wall of the city. It was a conspicuous spot. (Mark 15:40; Luke 23:49)

The word “Calvary” means “the place of a skull.” Luke 23:33, “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.” It is the same place that is called Golgotha. Matthew 27:33, “And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull.” Mark 15:22, “And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.” John 19:17, “And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.” There are several reasons it is called the place of a skull, as follows:

1. It was a place where uncovered and unburied skulls were found.
2. It was often a place of execution. Perhaps this is why Jesus was crucified there, and some suppose it was called “the place of the skull” because of this.
3. The shape of the rock was of a cranial shape. To this day, the place of Calvary looks like a face. It is not difficult to look at Calvary and see a face with a large skull.

Near Calvary was the garden in which was the sepulcher where Jesus was buried. John 19:7, 20, 41, “The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.” Hebrews 13:11-13, “For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.”

- II. THE PURCHASE. When man sinned and caused the fall of the human race, three things died: (1) the spirit of man; (2) the body of man; (3) the whole creation. That is to say, when man sinned he was separated from God and died spiritually. Death also came upon his body, and his body began to decay, which brought inevitable death. Then, also, the creation died. This means that flowers will lose their petals, trees will lose their leaves. This means that animals will become ferocious, and serpents will become deadly. This is the cause of thorns and thistles, and storms and freezes, and the death of the grass and all of nature.

These things that died in the Garden of Eden were purchased on Calvary.

1. The price was paid that man’s spirit could be born again. This takes place when a person receives Christ. John 3:5, 7, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” Titus 3:5, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”
2. The redemption of the body was also purchased. I John 3:2, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him; for we shall see him as he is.” This redemption will take place at the rapture, or what is called the First Resurrection when Jesus comes for His own. The little outline concerning the three appearances of Christ or the three comings of Christ is as follows: (1) He came to His own in Bethlehem; (2) He comes for His own at the rapture; (3) He comes with His own seven years later to establish His kingdom on earth. It is when He comes for His own that the body is redeemed. Then, when Jesus comes seven years later with His own and establishes His kingdom

on earth, the creation shall be redeemed. Romans 8:21-23, "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan without ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

So everything that was lost in the Garden of Eden was purchased on Calvary. However, it is wonderful that He more than purchased what was lost. In the Garden of Eden man was innocent. He fell into guilt. On Calvary Jesus purchased not only innocence, but perfection for him. We fell from innocence to guilt and will rise from guilt above innocence to perfection, even like Christ. I John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." Then the fall caused the Garden of Eden and the entire earth to be cursed. Jesus purchased for us more than the Garden of Eden beauty. We fell from Eden to a cursed earth. He redeemed us to rise from a cursed earth to eventually live in Heaven, which is beyond Edenic splendor.

An interesting little story that Brother Hyles used often: A little boy made a boat. He was so proud of it. He took it down to the beach and played with it in the ocean. It was simply a little toy boat, but he was so pleased with it. One day the tide went out, and with the tide went his boat. It went far beyond his ability to recover it. He was, of course, heartbroken. Days later he was walking by a toy shop. He looked into the window and saw his little boat for sale. What had happened was that some fishermen had seen the boat out at sea and had taken the boat and sold it to the toy shop, and the toy shop was selling it to the public. The little boy rushed in the toy shop and said, "That's my boat! That's my boat!" Whereupon the owner replied, "I purchased that boat." But the boy said, "That's my boat. I made it." The owner agreed to hold the boat until the little boy could make enough money to purchase it. After days, the little boy came in, purchased the boat, held it to his breast as he walked out and said, "Boat, you are mine twice now; I made you, and I bought you."

That's what the Saviour can say to us—we are His twice. He made us, and He bought us at Calvary.

- III. THE PRICE. Just what price did Jesus pay at Calvary? He purchased the three things aforementioned, and in so doing, He had to suffer the sum total of what every unsaved person would have suffered had he gone to Hell forever. Better still, He suffered all of our Hell and all of the pain and agony that we would have suffered had we all spent eternity in Hell. What a price! What a salvation! What a Saviour!