

## **CRIES FROM THE CROSS**

Lk.23:34, 43, 46; Jn. 19:26-27; Matt. 27:46 ; Mk 15:34; Jn. 19:28, 30.

### **A Cry of Forgiveness**

*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do”* (Lk. 23:34). Christ’s first words from the cross meet the sinner’s urgent need. When we, sinful men were manifesting our greatest hatred for God; Christ was manifesting His greatest love for us. When sacred blood flowed from His body; benign intercession flowed from His lips.

### **A Cry of Salvation**

*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise* (Lk. 23:43). The words were spoken to a dying thief. In v. 42, the thief expresses faith in Jesus as Messiah and King, when he says to Him, *“Remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

“The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day  
And there may I, though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away.”

### **A Cry of Love**

*“Woman, behold your son!”* Then He said to the disciple, *“Behold your mother!”* (John 19:26-27). Jesus saw his mother standing by the Cross, and knowing full well her distress, he felt for her with great tenderness. Once He would leave, she would be in an isolated condition, in a wicked world, and for that reason, He commended her to His most tender-hearted and faithful disciple John.

### **A Cry of Abandonment**

*“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Matt. 27:46 ; Mk. 15:34). How are we to understand this abandonment? He was in an awful place of *“incomprehensible loneliness”* bearing the sins of the whole world. Bearing the full and crushing weight of them to save us.

Some one has aptly said, “Hell came to Calvary that day, and the Christ descended into it and bore its horrors in our place.”

It was a cry of overwhelming distress; but not of distrust.

### **A Cry of His Humanity**

*“I thirst”* (Jn. 19:28). He who has made the oceans, rivers and seas, thirsted. Our Lord began His ministry with hunger; He ends it with thirst. His thirst was both physical and spiritual.

The cry predominantly expressed his yearning for restored communion with His Father. *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God* (Ps. 42:1-2).

### **A Cry of Victory**

*"It is finished"* (Jn. 19:30). This meant for the Savior that His life of toil, oppression, humiliation, and suffering and of loneliness was finished. Sufferings at the hands of men, at the hands of Satan, and at the hands of God were now over.

Never again shall He experience pain. The wages of sin have been paid. The cross has been "endured." Divine holiness has been fully satisfied. Redemption has been accomplished, and His resurrection has confirmed it all.

### **A Cry of Commitment**

*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit* (Lk. 23:46). Christ's death was a voluntary one.

His life was not forced from Him. He had previously said that no one could take His life; *"but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again."* He dismissed His own spirit. It was an act of Diety.

For more than twelve hours He had been in the hands of sinful men, now He returns to be in the hands of His loving Father.

Soli Deo Gloria

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\*With much indebtedness to Arthur Pink