

## THE PLACE CALLED CALVARY (Luke 23:33)

### I. The place: “there.”

- A. What does scripture tell us about the place of Jesus’ death?
  - 1. It was near the city (John 19:20).
  - 2. A garden was near it (John 19:41).
  - 3. It was near a public thoroughfare (Matthew 27:39).
- B. There are many things we don’t know about the place.
  - 1. We don’t know its exact location.
  - 2. We don’t know why it is named “skull.”
  - 3. We don’t know if it was on a hill, as the song indicates.
- C. About the name “skull,” that is what both the Latin (calvary) and Hebrew (Golgotha) mean.
  - 1. It may be that there were skulls of other victims laying about, but this is doubtful.
  - 2. It was a place of public execution and it was possible that the surrounding area had the look of a skull since a place such as that is very near Jerusalem.
- D. Though we don’t know the exact place of this execution spot, a place called “Gordon’s Calvary,” after the discoverer of the place, is the most likely, with it being just a few hundred feet northeast of the old Damascus Gate, outside the old city walls (Hebrews 13:12).

### II. The people: “they.”

- A. The pronoun “they” most definitely refers to the soldiers that presided over the murder of Jesus.
- B. However, many shared in the blame and guilt for this murder.
- C. The Jewish leaders were guilty.
  - 1. Luke 23:1-2.
  - 2. Jesus was murdered because He threatened their power and position (John 11:48).
  - 3. They conducted a sham of a trial, breaking many of their own judicial laws in the process.
  - 4. They are the ones that incited the people to cry out for our Lord’s crucifixion, so they are to blame.
- D. The Jewish people in general were guilty.
  - 1. John 1:11.
  - 2. Matthew 27:25.
  - 3. Acts 2:22-23.
  - 4. These were many of the same people who just days earlier had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as a conquering king.
- E. Pilate was guilty.
  - 1. Luke 23:25.
  - 2. The Roman part of the trial was a sham as well.
  - 3. Pilate knew that it was the envy of the Jewish leaders that brought Jesus before him, and he still caved into their sinful desire (Mark

- 15:10).
4. Tradition says that the emperor Tiberius recalled Pilate from Judea and banished him to Vienna, where he committed suicide in AD 41 because of his decision concerning Jesus.
  5. Although Pilate did not “find guilt in this man,” there was guilt in Pilate.
- F. Herod was guilty.
1. Luke 23:15.
  2. Herod just wanted to see a show and cared nothing for the life of Jesus.
  3. He could have ended things but chose to let them continue because Jesus did not perform for him..
- G. The soldiers who participated in the mocking and death of Jesus were guilty.
1. The dressed Jesus in purple, placed a crown of thorns on His head, mocked Him, beat Him, spat upon Him and mockingly bowed down to Him (Mark 15:16-20).
  2. It may be argued that they were just carrying out their duties, but the mistreatment given to Jesus indicates enjoyment on their part.
- H. Each of us here this morning and every person who ever lives is guilty.
1. Franklin Camp preached on this subject, asking the question “Who crucified Jesus?”
  2. The first point in the sermon was, “You Did!”
  3. My sins and your sins caused the death of Jesus.
  4. Isaiah 53:5 - “He was wounded for our transgressions..”
  5. Romans 5:8.

### III. **The penalty: “crucified.”**

- A. Crucifixion was one of the most horrible methods of execution.
1. It was practiced by many ancient groups.
  2. It was begun by the Persians.
  3. It was used for crimes such as murder, sedition, treason, piracy and desertion.
- B. However, Christ was not crucified for being a criminal, but for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 2:2).
- C. Jesus experienced physical pain on the cross.
1. Before the event, Jesus prayed so hard that blood came out of His pores on His forehead (Luke 22:44).
    - a. This is known as Hematidrosis (bloody sweat).
    - b. In highly emotional or stressful situations, the blood vessels in the forehead rupture and flows out with the sweat from the forehead.
  2. Jesus was scourged.
    - a. Jesus was bent over a horizontal post to stretch His back.
    - b. A flagellum, a small whip with numerous tips laced with sharp bone or metal balls, was used to beat His back.
    - c. The balls bruised the tissue while the bone shredded it.

3. Jesus was crucified.
  - a. Each wrist and both feet had what is equal to a rail spike driven through them.
  - b. The legs were bent to cause sagging, which increased the pain in the wrist and shoulders, while causing the diaphragm to be unable to expand, keeping the lungs from taking in air.
  - c. In order to breathe or speak, Jesus had to push up with His feet causing more pain.
4. Jesus was pierced.
  - a. A cruel soldier, seeing Jesus was already dead, took his spear and pierced the side of Jesus.
  - b. It was to ensure death, but was a cruel and useless act.
- D. Jesus experienced emotional pain.
  1. The sayings of Jesus on the cross reveal this to us.
  2. Luke 23:34, 43; John 19:26-27; Matthew 27:46; John 19:28, 30.
- E. Thinking of these things should lead to greater appreciation of what Jesus endured and did for me.

**IV. The person: "him."**

- A. It was the Son of God that was crucified (John 3:16).
- B. The angels called Him Savior (Luke 2:11).
- C. The great hymn states, "When I survey the wondrous cross..."
- D. What do we see when we look at it.
  1. We see someone who treated others with respect.
    - a. No matter how harsh or mean Jesus treated them properly.
    - b. Ephesians 4:32.
  2. We see someone who practiced what He preached.
  3. We see someone who appealed to our deepest need.
    - a. Our deepest need is forgiveness of sins.
    - b. Jesus came to save sinners (Luke 19:10).
  4. We see someone who cared enough to die so that we can live (Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45).

From a sermon by Mark Posey