

LESSON 19 – CALVARY’S MOUNTAIN SHADOWS KINGDOM HIGHWAY

Matthew – Mark – Luke - John

THEME: To teach the identification of believers with Christ in death, burial and resurrection.

We are coming closer and closer to the first mountain peak which the Prophets saw. It is called MOUNT CALVARY. In our last lesson we saw John the Baptist preparing the way for the King by calling the Israelites to repentance and baptism. Then we saw a strange thing as the Saviour submitted Himself to water baptism, where Jesus showed Himself to be one with His people. *He identified Himself with His people.* Today we will see that upon Mount Calvary, Christ had another baptism, a baptism without water as John had baptised Him, but a baptism into death.

Shortly before His entrance into Jerusalem riding upon a colt, the foal of a beast of burden (Matthew 21:5), Jesus asked His disciples: “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” Matthew 16:13-19 speaks about this. Christ called the believing Israelites His church. Matthew 16:18. The word ‘church’ means *a called out group*. In the Kingdom, Israel will be a nation of priests to lead the gentiles to Christ the King. Such a separated group will be a church, the Kingdom Church. It was to be built upon Christ Himself, who is the chief cornerstone, and Peter was given the keys to first open the door of faith to the Jews.

Shortly after Christ made this promise to Peter, He began to reveal that He must first die, before the Kingdom could be established. Matthew 16:21. Christ spoke of His coming suffering and death as a baptism. It was His *death baptism*. Luke 12:50. The time was coming closer and closer when the Saviour-King was to suffer His death baptism.

One day Jesus said to the disciples: “You know that after two days the Passover (the remembrance of the PASSOVER on PROMISE ROAD) is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion.” Matthew 26:1-2. As Jesus and the disciples ate the Passover feast, Jesus said: “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” Matthew 26:21-25. After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. There, in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was that Jesus prayed: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.” Matthew 26:36-45.

Afterwards, while He was still speaking to the disciples, Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people, to arrest Him. Matthew 26:47-56.

Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the high priest, and was falsely accused. The high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ,

the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think? They answered, “He deserves death!” Matthew 26:57-68.

Then Jesus was brought before Pilate, the governor of Judea, who asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered: “It is as you say.” Matthew 27:11. The soldiers of the governor stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. All was happening just as the prophets had prophesied the suffering on MOUNT CALVARY. Matthew 27:27-30.



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Afterwards they led Him away to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall, and nailed Him to the cross. The soldiers put above His head a sign which read: "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." Matthew 27:33-37.

At that time two robbers were crucified with Jesus, one on the right and one on the left. Matthew 27:38. One of them chose the way of life, the other the way of death. While the last one mocked Him, the first one said, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in paradise." It was now about the sixth hour (12 noon), and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 PM), because the sun was obscured. And the veil of the temple was torn in two. Luke 23:39-45. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" John 19:30. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. Luke 23:46. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock. A large stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. Matthew 27:57-60. The promised King was dead and the rulers of Israel thought they were rid of Jesus forever.

One day passed, a second day passed, and on the third day our Saviour rose from the dead! Matthew 26:1-8.

Did Jesus deserve to die? No. The wages of sin is death, but Jesus never sinned. He could have lived forever, but we see:

1. It was *our sins* which nailed Jesus to the cross. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. He carried our sins and wore the scarlet robe of humility so that we might wear a robe of righteousness.
2. Jesus wore a *crown of thorns* so that we might wear a crown of righteousness. 2 Timothy 4:8.
3. Jesus *died our death*. Then He arose, and now He gives us His resurrection life. Romans 6:4. At the moment we trust Jesus as Saviour, the Holy Spirit baptises us into the Body of Christ, Christ's Church of today. Then we are identified with Christ so that His death baptism becomes our baptism, His burial our burial, and His resurrection our resurrection. Thus as new creations in Christ we should walk in newness of life.

MEMORY VERSE: "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4.

LESSON 19 – WORK SHEET

The following statements are either True or False. Find the Bible references and write inside the brackets a (T) for those that are true, and a (F) for those that are false.

- 1. () The prophets saw Christ suffering for our sins on Mount Calvary. Psalm 22:16.
- 2. () Christ spoke of His coming death as a baptism. Luke 12:50.
- 3. () Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the whole world. Matthew 27:11
- 4. () Christ had to die because He sinned. 1 Corinthians 15:3, Hebrews 7:26.
- 5. () At the moment we trust Christ as Saviour, we are baptised into His death. Romans 6:3-4.
- 6. () Only the Spirit of Christ arose from the grave. Luke 24:37-39.
- 7. () We, believers in Christ, are not only baptised into Christ's death, but we are raised up with Him in newness of life. Romans 6:4.
- 8. () The baptism of the Holy Spirit makes us, believers in Christ, members of a church here on the earth. 1 Corinthians 12:13.

9. Write a brief description of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. _____

10. Write Romans 6:4: _____
