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which man devised He was sneered at, laughed at, stripped of His clothes, mocked and tortured, bruised, and certainly as we think of artists trying to represent this scene at Calvary all of their work is inadequate. We must not forget that the cross was an instrument of torture and that it was very real and ugly physical instrument made of rough, heavy wood upon which a man actually died in anguish. We remember the story of Anton Lang. Lang carried a cross in the famous Passion Play that is put on over at Overannergau. And he was questioned about this cross. He had played the part so well and he bore this cumbersome heavy cross as Christ had borne. And he replied that indeed our Master endured an awful beating with a whip and He suffered the cruel death upon a cross. And he says we never should as Christian forget the realities and the evils of this cross that no little light cross would do.

The Roman soldiers were very valiant and very tough. They spread Rome's dominion far and they conquered many lands and they subdued ~~xxx~~ brave people and they took over rich cities. They loved their homes, their families, and their country but they were ~~xxxxxxxx~~ under stern discipline of the army life. The hardships of many campaigns they had endured. They scorned soft living and these soldiers are always just men as in our modern armies today. We know that they are drawn from the civilian ranks. Their virtues and their vices are civilian's

Why He Did Not Hang on the Cross Longer?
John 19:31-37

INTRODUCTION: We think of Jesus being crucified and this account here like a huge locomotive making 100 miles an hour on a dark night without a headlight it approaches a place where the tressle has been washed out. The engineer discovers this danger but he has no brakes. And he plunges out into the darkness. It seems like this is a situation concerning the cross of Jesus that He has now plunged out into the darkness. No wonder the earth quakes, no wonder nature protested no wonder the grave opened, and it is no wonder that darkness covered the earth.

I. Why did not Christ hang longer on the cross? Verse 31

to allow
It was the custom of the Romans ~~xxxxxxxx~~ the body of the crucified to remain of the cross until it rotted away. That practice was observed for the same reason that our ancestors permitted the executed criminals to hang in chains until their bones fell asunder. It was intended to deepen the shame of the death and to also intensify the horror of the crime. A person (generally) survived the sufferings of the cross more than one day and some times several days. This was the Roman custom to leave the body until it decayed.

We read in the book of Deuteronomy 21:23, that according to the law of Moses there was provided that if the body of an executed criminal were hung on a tree it should not remain

all night upon the tree but should be buried the same day, lest the land be defiled. Therefore, the Jewish law ordered the removal of the body at sunset.

However, we see here that the reason for the immediate disposal of the body was that it was the (pass-over feast) and it was not seemingly the men should go up to the temple and pray with three dead men hanging on crosses shining in the sun. Therefore, they make a request to Pilate that he send soldiers and break their legs and to give their bodies burial. This was carried out with heavy iron mallets. They ~~smashed~~ the limbs of the crucified. This being the preparation for the (sabbath or the high day) as it was called unto them. They had great esteem that they would be thought of having to approach the sabbath the days of the unleavened bread with these still on the cross. But it seems to me that every sabbath day is a holy day and a good day but this one seemed to be a high day, to stand out among all of the others. They reckoned that this would be reproached if the bodies were left of the crosses. As they had known out of their laws of course, but they knew that (strangers) from all parts of the country were there at Jerusalem and it would have been an offense to them nor could they well bear the sight of Christ's crucified body. They made their petition to Pilate that

their bodies now as good as dead might be dispatched not by strangling or by beheading them but by the breaking of their legs. That is to produce more pain. These hypocrites certainly in their pretending are an abomination to us. These Jews giving great thought to the sabbath and yet gave little thought to righteousness and to justice. Now these Jews did not have in mind shortening the sufferings of those on the cross which would last for hours or days but they had here a special occasion in mind, the high day, the sabbath and this had been done before in the punishment of those who had been crucified the breaking of the legs or the bones by means of the club or a big hammer. This would not in itself bring death but the breaking of the bones was always followed by a sword or a spear which would immediately put an end to the remains of life. Thus the breaking of the bones was a sort of increase of punishment by way of compensation for its shortening by the final stroke that followed. We certainly are disturbed when we think about the punctualness and the care for the letter of the law about burial ~~the~~ and the high sabbath by those who had betrayed and crucified their Messiah on the first passover day. How terrible was the situation.

II. Soldiers of Cruelty Verse 32

Jesus was not only muted He was also abused. And He was subjected to every insult. When we think about the cruelty

But there is also the look of joy and peace and healing for those who will look unto Him who bore their sin.

Author of the hymn "In the Cross of Christ" is
 Story "Was Sir John Bowring"
 Early Chinese Colonialist built at

Macao, China on the site of a tall a massive
 Cathedral - a violent typhoon nearly wrecked
 the building, only the main part wall remained
 intact. On the summit of the wall stand
 a great bronze cross, depicting the storm

Sir John ~~Bowring~~ Bowring our Governor
 of Hong Kong visited Macao in 1825 &
 was impressed by the uplifted cross which
 seemed to defy the ravages of time & storm.

It is the cross of X I fancy
 Towering over the walls of time,
 All the light of sacred story
 Gathered round its head sublime.

Thousands have visited & looked upon that
 same ruin & cross - some with indifference,
 reverence, curiosity

And as we think of the Jews today in their denial of Christ's deity, hostile to His claims contemptuous for His cross, saying that Christ has not the marks of the Messiah, the story of the cross moves Him to silence. But in all of history we see that it is touched upon. Literature tries to tell the story, art tries to portray it to the minds of men, music tries to move men. There is a story told of a recital of music in a great hall. On the program was a young girl who was very talented. And she sang her first song on the program as a pupil. Her fresh voice and her art and the wonder of her voice captivated the audience. They wanted her to sing again but she was not prepared to sing another number. She was at a loss as to what to sing. But she came back and she chose a song dear to her heart. Wyatt's famous hymn, "When I Survey the Wonderful Cross" on which the Prince of Glory, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride." They listened in silence. A thrill of rapture passed over them and people were not given to flippant speech but to tenderness and strong men looked straight and little children wept. The whole company was led back to the cross. They looked upon Him who they pierced with sympathy. There was also a look of penitence. When we think of those who shall look upon Him who has been pierced like the morning dew there are many who

have looked upon Him in sorrow but who have never been drawn to His feet. There is a constant danger of us having sympathy and looking upon Christ and then stopping there. (Tradition) tells the story of the man who used the spear inside of the Roman Legion. They said that he was a hardhearted soldier, he was a brave representative of the Roman Legion and he returned to Rome and talked to children and told them of that day. How he recalled the death of Jesus in his heart and how that he regrets in his spirit that his spear had done what he had led it to do because he remembered that (Thomas) thrust his fingers in this side. Also in our imagination I think of this man growing older and looking back again and again over the deeds of his younger years and thinking of the man that he helped crucify. As he looks back upon this scene I imagine the arrow of condemnation finds its place in his heart. And he declared "O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from this body of death."

We must come to know that (we were a part) and that the soldier pierced him representing us and again and again (we pierced the heart of Christ through) our disobedience, through our reckless living, and through our sinfulness. There are more ways of piercing Christ's heart than with a Roman spear. Do you ever indulge in lawlessness? Do you never harden your heart against poverty and the outcasts? Are you never

unjust and untrued and unkind in your words and your deeds? Did you let a beggar go unfed? There are thrust which pierce the heart of Christ, your hands and mine Have thrust the spear and as we look upon Him who we have pierced, there come mourning and penitence. But there is something more to this.

There is the look of despair they shall look upon Him whom they pierced is a prophecy which is daily being fulfilled. There is one fulfillment yet to come. The Christian teaching is that this world will come to an end some day and that though there may be crisis after crisis and God may send His judgment but there will come an end when the consumation of this age shall come to pass. Then cometh the end when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom of God even the Father. So shall it be in the end of the world when the Son of Man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels shall come with Him and all the nations shall be gathered and every eye shall see Him and they that pierced Him shall be there. We know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and yet it will be dreadful for some to look upon Him whom they have pierced and there will be shame and terror in their hearts. They (call on the rocks) to cover them as they flee out of that presence, whose love and grace make up a great part, my friends. Yet has been rejected.

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Now the second part of this promise is that in verse 37 "they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced". In Zachariah 12:10 we find this prophecy made. Acts 2:23, Revelation 1:7. They shall look upon Me which is here applied to Christ. It is here implied that the Messiah shall be pierced and here it is that He has gone through this and has been pierced, not only in His hands and His feet, but in His side. Zachariah 13:6. It is promised that when the Spirit is poured out they shall look upon Him and mourn.

This (implies) that there will be those who will look in sympathy at the cross of Christ, my friends, will looked upon as a dark tragedy of history that touches everyheart to sorrow. No one can read the story of Jesus who was meek and lowly of heart who took the little children up in His arms, who touched the leper, who gave sight to the blind, on the cross with a spear thrust in His side. It matters not what men are believers or unbelievers. That there will be emotion in their heart. This piercing seems to them all the most useless of all the crimes connected to His crucifixion. But here is evidence of sympathetic mourning.

The Christian church feels the call of sorrow more deeply as the ages go by. We may not care to set apart a day to special commemoration ~~xxxx~~ as some great churches do but we know that the death of Christ of the Cross was horrible.

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he saw and he silences the fear of weak Christians and he encourages their hope as he gives an eyewitness account of the circumstances which enabled him to be accurate in his testimony.

V. A Twofold Prophecy Fulfilled verse 36-37

We have here the completion of prophecy. As we go back in our memory and trace the steps of Jesus and we follow Him from His incarnation to the mystery of the cross and as His followers did they searched the Old Testament to find the interpretation of His words and of His deeds.

And they read, "They shall smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered abroad." So on this fateful day at the cross there was passage after passage of the Old Testament which stood out in due significance with new meaning. We read, even the (accounts of Judas) taking the coins and casting them down and the coins being used to buy a field to bury strangers in. For (Jeremiah) had written of this. "And they took the 30 pieces of silver, the price of Him that was valued whom they of the children of Israel did value and gave them for the potter's field."

When they marked that He was crucified between 2 thieves these people had to but read the words of Isaiah and He was numbered with the transgressors.

When they pictured the soldiers sitting down at the foot

of the cross casting their dice for His seamless robe, they had to but turn to the (Psalms) "They parted my garments among them and upon my vesture did they caste lots."

When they heard again Christ cry "I thirst" and saw the soldiers come up with the sponge and the cooling vinegar, they also could hear the psalmist singing, "In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink".

Here at the end of the day of His death the thieves were dying slowly in their agony and Pilate had set the soldiers to give the blows which would break the limbs, they found (Jesus already in death.) They did not break ^a limb or a bone but they put a spear in His side. Then it is that they recalled the words, "A bone of him shall not be broken", and also the words "They shall look on Him whom they pierced".

We might go to the book (Zachariah) who had seen the vision of the day yet to come when the people of God hardened in their hearts, rebellious in spirit, should return in sorrow to the faith and fear and service of God. "I will pour out upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and of supplication and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced and they shall mourn". And certainly that mourning was a broken heart. It should be as wide-spread as the mourning of Isreal mourning its young hero, King Josias when he was fatally wounded at Metiedo. Josiah had gone to

battle in a casue which was not his own and he was wounded by an arrow and as he was carried back to Jerusalem men and women mourned his death.

Therefore from (prophecy) we see first of all fulfilled the reference to "not a bone in His body shall be broken".

But here were the type of the (Pascal lamb) which was referred to back in Exedus 12:46. Neither shall ye break a bone thereof" And also in (Numbers 9:12) "They shall leave none of it until the morning nor break any bone of it". The former passage has reference to the Lamb of the passover slain. The latter passage was in reference to the pascal lamb eaten at the yearly passover. So here was an (anti-type) which spoke years before and Christ was the answer to that type. Christ was out passover in sacrifice for us. I Corinthians 5:7. He is the Lamb of God and as the true passover his bones were kept unbroken. This commandment was given concerning His bones when dead as of Joseph.

Hebrews 11:22.

~~Strength of the bones~~ There was significance in it the strength of the body is in the bones.

The Hebrew word for the bones signifies the strength and therefore not a bone of Christ must be broken. To show that though He be crucified in weakness, His strenght can be saved is not all broken. Sin breaks our bones but it did not break Christ's bones. He stood firm under the burden mighty to save.

Life surrendered in sacrifice for sin. John 1:29. Or life laid down for the life of the world. John 6:51, 10:15. We also find that water represents the Holy Spirit. As given by Christ for the quickening and purifying of men, John 4:13 & 14, 7:38-39. For cleansing from sin in the sense of forgiveness and quickening by the Spirit are both consequences of Christ's death. (Others have suggested) that this signifies the two great ordinances of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. That here we see on the cross that the blood was representative as it came fresh from His side. Now was the rock smitten, I Corinthians 10:4. Now was the fountain opened, Zachariah 13:1. Now were the wells of salvation digged, Isaiah 12:3. Here is the river, the streams whereof make glad the city, of our God.

IV. Testimony of Truth, verse 35

Here is one speaking of an eyewitness account. What a competent witness he was of the matters of fact. He bore record, not of his sake but that which he had witness to, what he saw he faithfully bore of record of as a faithful witness. He told not only the truth but the whole truth and he left it upon the record in writing. He lets us know that he wrote from personal knowledge and personal observation. He had himself assurance of the truth as to what he wrote and he takes care of this, instance to let us know that this is what

VICES. What a contribution such men make might be well taken as an example from our nation.

Because the soldiers are drawn ranks they are both the victims and the agents of the general population. The people back home are reflected in the soldiers at the front. This means that whatever evil is found in soldiers and whatever crimes are committed by soldiers are not theirs alone, but is shared by all their unenlisted fellow citizens. That is why Christians today thought they support the present war because they believe the alternative is an even greater evil. Militarism is not calculated to exalt the finer qualities of life or to promote the well-being of humanity nor to develop in either or civilians the nobler traits of character. Rather its purpose and its result are exactly the contrary. Militarism unleashes all that is most degrading and beastial. It is the reverse of the rations of moral laws and the strength.

The (soldiers who tortured Jesus) were the chance agents through whom human cruelty then expressed itself. Their guilt was no greater than the whole population and society. They served. They were just the servants of militarism. And the roots of the animal nature of cruelty were in these men because they were stripped of the thin veneer of civilization.

At the request of the Jews Pilate these soldiers were sent

to the crucified to break their legs and to give their bodies burial and so with the heavy iron mallets they smashed the limbs of the two men off either side of Jesus. When they came to Jesus they found that He was (dead already) Jesus was perfectly still in death. It was cruel and ghastly work but they were familiar with blood and they cared little for human life. The outcry of these men as their legs were broken meant nothing to these soldiers but when they came to Jesus they discovered that He was dead. And that He had died perhaps in less time than it had required for people ordinarily to do so. Therefore it shows to us that He was of the perfect order and that He died of (willingness) on His own part that He (laid down) His own life himself.

III. Proof of Jesus' humanity, verse 33-34

To make sure of the certainty of the death of Jesus these soldiers would (not error). But we discover that one soldier with a (spear) pierced His side aiming at His heart. The soldier hereby designed to decide the question as to whether He was dead or not. To give evidence to the truth of His death. And we discover that in doing so he proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that this was (more than a swoon) on the cross. That Jesus actually died on the cross.

You may wonder (why did one of them thrust a spear) into the side of Jesus. Did this not seem to be truly absurd.

The soldiers were rough men. They were not unwilling to use their arms on the slightest occasion. It is not surprising that one of them to make His death doubly sure thrust the spear into His side. And here is something miraculous in that the blood and the water should come out of the same wound. I John 5:6.&8.

We see here that the (opening of His side was significant). When we would protest our sincerity, we wish there were a window in our heart that the thoughts and intents of them might be visible to all. Through this window opened in Christ's side you may look into His heart and see love flowing there. Love, as strong as death. And you may also know that the first Adam's ~~side~~ side was opened in ~~error~~ error. When Adam was in a deep sleep and God created woman and of her seed had said that the head of the serpent would be bruised. Here on the cross we see the (second Adam) was fallen into a deep sleep on the cross and His side was opened and out of that side was taken the church. Ephesians 5:30-32. The blood and the water flowed out. It was significant of these signified the two (great benefits) that all believers partake of through Christ. Justification and sanctification. (Blood for remission, Water for regeneration. Blood for atonement, Water for purification. We also find that the blood represents life surrendered. In the case of Christ