

The Three Crosses of Calvary Luke 23

Message by Pastor Robert De Corah Written in the Key of B = B Saved

A Young Man's First Time Before A Pulpit Committee

There was a young man who went before a pulpit committee for the first time. The chairman of the pulpit committee asked him, "Young man, do you know your Bible?" He said, "I really do." Chairman: "Do you know the Old Testament or the New Testament best?" Young man "I really know my New Testament." Chairman: "Well then tell us a story. As a matter of fact, tell us the story of the Prodigal Son."

Young Man: "Well you see, there was a man of the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus. The same came to Jericho by nights and fell on stony ground. The thorns choked him half to death.

The next morning Solomon and his wife, Gomorrah, came along and picked him up to take him to the ark for Noah to help. As they passed through the eastern gate, he caught his hair on some limbs and hung there for forty days and forty nights. Afterwards he hungered, and the ravens came and fed him. The three wise men came along and took him down and put him on a ship sailing to Nineveh. When he got off the ship, he saw Delilah sitting on a wall. He said, 'Chunk her down boys.' They said, 'Seven times?' He said, 'Nay, but I tell you 70 times 7.' So they chunked her down 490 times. She fell off the wall and burst asunder. Now the question is, whose wife will she be in the resurrection?"

The chairman of the pulpit committee said, "He may be young, but he really does know his Bible. I think we ought to call him."

Randy Travis, Three Wooden Crosses Lyrics

A farmer and a teacher, a hooker and a preacher,
Ridin' on a midnight bus bound for Mexico.
One's headed for vacation, one for higher education,
An' two of them were searchin' for lost souls.
That driver never ever saw the stop sign.
An' eighteen wheelers can't stop on a dime.

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There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway,
Why there's not four of them, Heaven only knows.
I guess it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, It's what you
leave behind you when you go.

That farmer left a harvest, a home and eighty acres,
The faith an' love for growin' things in his young son's heart.
An' that teacher left her wisdom in the minds of lots of children:
Did her best to give 'em all a better start.
An' that preacher whispered: "Can't you see the Promised Land?"
As he laid his blood-stained bible in that hooker's hand.

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway,
Why there's not four of them, Heaven only knows.
I guess it's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, It's what you
leave behind you when you go.

That's the story that our preacher told last Sunday.
As he held that blood-stained bible up, For all of us to see.
He said: "Bless the farmer, and the teacher, an' the preacher;
"Who gave this Bible to my mamma, "Who read it to me."

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway,
Why there's not four of them, now I guess we know.
It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you,
It's what you leave behind you when you go.

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway.

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Luk 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

A. The dying thief had even heard the Savior's prayer for the forgiveness of their sins v 34

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

His hands could no longer perform acts of love

His feet could no longer carry on errands of mercy but there was still one ministry He could do was to pray. Had he not taught Mat 5:44 But I say unto **you**, Love your enemies, **bless them that curse you**, do good to **them that hate you**, and pray for **them** which despitefully use **you**, and persecute **you**;

Thus Jesus fulfilled the prophesy of **Isa 53:12** Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Application: you must first realize your lost before you can be found/saved

Illustration There was a **little girl named Mary** who became separated from her mother in a movie theater. The mother went to the candy counter for help. They sent an usher into each darkened theater to make an announcement if little Mary is lost please come to the candy counter to see your mother. She never went. After the movie was over the mother finally saw her daughter and asked her why she did not come to the counter? Mary said he announced if Little Mary who is lost please come to the candy counter. Mom I was not lost. I knew exactly where I was.

Illustration: I had a dream of my uncle **Joe** coming to me after he died. I said to him, "You are dead and should already be in hell. He asked me, "Do you want to come with me." In terror I responded, "No!" He then asked if my brother and sisters would go with him. I said, "No!" He then asked if my mother and father would go with him. I said, "I do not know." Uncle Joe then walked out into the darkness to go and ask them. I stood in a circle of light waiting in terror not knowing if my parents would go to hell. After a while he came back and said, "They do not want to go with me. I guess I will have to go by

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myself.” I woke up in terror. My mother said that is when I began reading my Bible in earnest trying to understand how does a person go to heaven.

Illustration: I have had very few people reject Jesus on their **death beds**. I was called to visit a dying patient by a hospital who picked my church out of a phone book. I first visited with the mother and then went into the hospital room to visit her son. All he did was look at me with scorn as I explained how Jesus died for him. He refused to accept Christ. His mother asked if he prayed to receive Christ. I had to tell her no. She was so upset. I did not want to lie to her to give her a false assurance because she still had time to witness to him before he died within the next two weeks.

II. There Was The Cross of Redemption

Jesus became the substitute for our sins Explanation: He was helping but taking the place of us to pay the wages of sin. [Eph 1:7](#) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Poem: See from His head, His hands, His feet;

Sorrow and love mingled down.

Did ere such love flow mingled down meet,

Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

A. We would hear Hear Seven Last Words/Sayings of Jesus

Poem: Seven time He spake, seven words of love,

And all three hours His silence cried

For mercy on the souls of men;

Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.

1. **The Word of Forgiveness** “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.
2. **A Word of Assurance** “Today you shall be with me in paradise.”
Confession of Christ’s Deity – Lord v42

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Confidence Jesus is Savior – Remember Me
Concept Christ was King of Kings – Thy Kingdom
Jesus Response What certainty – Assuredly I say to you
What Speed – Today
What Company – With Me

3. **Word of Devotion** John 19:27 “Woman behold thy Son, Behold They mother.
4. **The Word of the deepest soul’s anguish** Matthew 27:46 “My God My God why has thou forsaken Me?”
Illustration: Martin Luther would jump up from his chair amazed “God forsaken of God! Who can understand it.

Poem: He was being forsaken that we might be forgiven

Silent through those three dread hours,

Wrestling with the evil powers,

Left alone with human sin,

Gloom around thee and within,

Till the appointed time is nigh,

Till the Lamb of God may die.

J. Ellerton

5. **The Word of Agony** John 19:28 “I thirst.” From whipping, thorns, nails Jesus lips and tongue would become swollen and cracked in agony He would cry out.

6. **The Word of Triumph** John 19:30 “It is finished.”

Tetelistai:

A **farmer looking** at a new born animal without defects would say Tetelistai

An **Artist** looking at his completed masterpiece uttered Tetelistai

A **Priest** looking at an undefective animal offering would say Tetelistai

It was a **commercial** word Tetelistai meaning it is paid for.

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7. **A Word of Supreme Loving Trust** – “Father into Thy Hands I Commit My Spirit.

B. There Were **Six Miracle of Calvary** to Attest to Whom He was

1. **Darkness** Luke 23:44, 45 from noon until three

Illustration: The night of His birth there was darkness but the night sky was lit up when the angels announced the Savior birth Now creation seems to hang it's head in shame that its Creator was now being crucified. God seems to say you can mock my Son but now I will not allow you to see the agony He will go through as He becomes sin for us. The hiss of s---in comes, all of the demons of hell during the hour of darkness gather, all the pain and payment for our sins now comes on His sinless pure soul.

Illustration: A Church Father named Tertullian says to an adversary “At the moment of Christ’s death, the light departed from the sun, and the land was darkened at noonday, which wonder is related in your archives to this day.”

Illustration: “In Greek literature one exclaims, “Surely a god dies now.” No it was not a god but the God the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **The Veil was Rent** Luke 23:45 & Matthew 27:51 Now the way was open for all to come to God through Jesus without a priest.

3. **Earthquake and Rocks** Rent Matthew 27:51 Siani & Ten Commandments thunder and lighting judgement The earthquake of Calvary was mercy. The earth convulsed with joy with the thought of its coming redemption when the curse will be lifted.

4. **The graves** open v52

5. **Undisturbed grave cloths**

iii. **The Cross of Acceptance v 42**

The One Dying Thief Shows All Can Be Saved

Poem: Upon a life I did not live

Upon a death I did not die:

Another’s life, another’s death,

I stole my whole eternity.

By Horace Bonar

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Illustration: A minister **Red Fox** was notified his nephew had died quite young unexpectedly in a motorcycle accident. He waited until the next day when he preached the morning service and then drove to his brother's home in Indiana. Another brother met him and told him how distraught his brother was and could not be comforted as he had tried all night. He then went in to see his brother who angrily said he did not want to talk to him. This angry reaction was because he was a preacher who represented God whom he was angry with.

He then grabbed his brother's arm and said you will talk to me and led him into another room. He asked if his son told him what he had told him at his aunt's funeral last semester. He said no. Your son came up to me after the service and told me when I asked people if they would like to accept Jesus in order to see her again and to make sure they were ready to die he came to me and said he had done this. He thought I would be happy to hear this since I was a preacher. Did you know this? His brother said, "No." He said because your son asked Jesus to save him you will see him again. What a relief.

The other brother would complain to his wife later that evening saying I spent all night trying to comfort my brother but could not here the other brother comes and in ten minutes my brother finds comfort what is the difference? The insightful wife responded by saying, "He knows Jesus and you do not."

Later that night she wondered why he had not come to bed. She looked around the house for him As she entered the basement there she saw him knelling by a trunk with a Bible his mother had given to him. She heard him praying, Lord Jesus please forgive me and save me from my sins and let me know that I will be with you and my nephew and family in heaven.

Application: Rev. Fox's brother, the dying thief and you and I can rejoice

Hymn:

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

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Born of His Spirit, washed in His Blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.

Mine were the sins, the crimes,
Which nailed Him to the tree;
Yet, oh, the thought! He dies-
Love's deepest mystery-
He dies for me.

Yes, 'tis for me He bleeds,
All worthless though I be;
He bows His sacred head
In shame and agony,
For me-forme.

Cross of my dying Lord,
I cling, I cleave to Thee,
Living by that one word,
"He gave Himself for me,"
Christ died for me>

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H. Grattan Guinness

You can pray and ask Jesus Christ to become your Savior right now. If you will repent of your sins and put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ you can pray this prayer if this is the desire God has put in your heart.

Dear God,

Please forgive my sins. I repent of them. Thank you for loving me enough to send your Son Jesus Christ to bear my sin on the cross and to take my sentence and penalty that I should have paid. I accept your amazing grace and offer of the forgiveness of my sins and the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord. Please help me get to know you love and follow you. May I grow in my relationship so that other's may know you as their Savior. In Jesus Christ's name.