

The Gospel

In the Gospel of Luke 23: v 33 in the Bible —we read: **'when they were come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him'**

The central truth of the Christian's Gospel Message is the death of Jesus Christ — the Son of God. Nearly 2000 years have passed by and it is still the only message that can change the lives of men and women. It can bring us forgiveness now in time, peace with God, and assure us of a glad eternity in heaven.

The death of Jesus Christ is the most talked about subject in the world. More books have been written about it than any other subject. More poems have been composed about it, and certainly more songs have been sung about the death of this wonderful Saviour of men.

In the verse quoted, there are four words that are important to everyone. Let's think of them.

'THERE they crucified Him' — that tells us of the PLACE where Jesus died.

The little mount of Calvary was also called *'the place of a skull'* because from a distance it resembled a skull of a dead person. How suggestive, because the Bible tells us that in God's sight we are all *'dead in our sins'*. Calvary was noted for being a lonely place and most certainly an outside place. There, Jesus, the Son of God died for you and me that we might never be alone or outside. He wants us to be with Him one day in heaven.

Someone has written:

*On mount Calvary, Jesus died alone,
For your sin and mine, not for sin His own.
Oh, the wonder of His grace, dying in the sinner's place,
So the love of God we trace — at Calvary.*

'There THEY crucified Him' — this word is about the PEOPLE who put Jesus to death.

All too quickly we say, that it was the Jewish people who crucified Jesus, but history records that both the Jews, and the Romans (Gentiles) did it, therefore all were guilty. You might say, 'I was not there, so how can I be responsible?' If we had been there, we too would have cried out *'crucify Him, we will not have this man to reign over us'*. If you are still rejecting Him and have no time for him in your life, then you are as guilty as the people of that day.

There they CRUCIFIED Him' — this word speaks so forcibly of the PUNISHMENT that Jesus received from men.

Crucifixion was the Roman form of Capital Punishment; it was the cruelest treatment that men gave to the Lord. The question is often asked, "Why?" and the answer is, "because He loves you and He loves me". The Bible tells us in Isaiah 53 that *'He —Jesus was wounded for our wrong-doings (sins) and was bruised for our iniquities'*.

Ask yourself the following questions:

*Why did He love me?
Why did He suffer so much for me?*

The answer:

He wants everyone to trust Him as their Saviour, receive His forgiveness, enjoy everlasting life, and be with Him in heaven for ever.

'There they crucified HIM' - This last word speaks of the PERSON who was crucified.

Oh, what a glorious person He is! The Bible tells us just the kind of person He was when He lived here on earth. Friends and enemies admitted He was the sinless One. The two thieves who were crucified with Him said, *'we receive the just rewards of our sinful deeds, but this man has done no wrong'*. Christians often sing the words of a lovely hymn:

*What kind of love is this that gave itself for me?
He who had no wrong was crucified for me.*

Jesus Christ, the sinless Saviour, who did only good for the people of His day, was taken and nailed to a Cross. Will you allow His love to touch and change your life today? Will you say:

*Wounded for me, wounded for me, there on the cross He was wounded for me,
Gone my transgressions and now I am free — all because Jesus was wounded for me.*