

## ***Lessons From The Cross of Jesus Teaching Us To Do His Will***

***“15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”***

***(2 Corinthians 5:15 KJV)***

On His last few hours on the cross our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ suffered the cruel pain to pay the prize for our sins. Even while He was hanged on the cross with all the great pain, He spoke His last words that carry to us great teaching and can tell what Jesus wants from us.

***1) Forgiveness: “34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” (Luke 23:34 KJV)*** The cross of Jesus teaches us forgiveness. We need to forgive those who hurt us and harm us. One time Simon Peter asked the Lord, ***“21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?” (Matthew 18:21 KJV)*** Those who crucified Jesus they divided up His clothes; they were really in miserable situation that they thought to take Jesus’ clothes. ***In the same way those who hurt you or harm you they are in the same miserable condition of sin, and to forgive them is to have mercy on them because they don’t know what they are doing.*** The Word of God admonish us the following: ***“13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” (Colossians 3:13 KJV)*** ***We need to forgive others so that God would forgive us, “14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15 KJV)***

***2) Compassion for the lost: “39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:39-43 KJV)*** Jesus had compassion on the lost souls; that criminal who was hanged on the cross, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that Jesus is Lord and king and that is why he asked, ***“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”*** And ***“Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”*** ***We should have the same love and compassion to the lost souls; we need to go to them and preach to them the gospel of Jesus and His death on the cross and His resurrection so might believe and be saved.***

***3) The sense of responsibility: “25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his***

***own home.” (John 19:25-27 KJV)*** Jesus Christ is hundred percent God and He is hundred percent man. From the flesh part Mary is His mother, but from the Spirit Jesus is her Lord. This is what Mary said, ***“46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.” (Luke 1:46-47 KJV)*** Therefore Jesus Christ called her woman. But when He delegated the responsibility of His mother to the beloved disciple He said to him, ***“Behold thy mother”***, because the Bible teaches us to treat elder women as mothers, as a respect for them and for their services. ***We learn from what Jesus did on the cross toward His mother to care for our parents and our family. We should have a sense of responsibility towards them as the Word of God says, “8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” (1 Timothy 5:8 KJV)***

***4) Perseverance till the end: “33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Mark 15:33-34 KJV)*** Why Jesus said, ***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*** When Jesus was on the cross God put on Him all the sins of the world, and in that agony Jesus was bearing as a man with full sensation of pain. God left Jesus alone to bear the sins of the whole world. ***“21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5: 21 KJV)*** But even in this situation Jesus did not give up, but He continued with the whole pain and suffering till the end. ***What we learn from that is the following: In our walk with God there are spring times, refreshing and joyful moments, but also there are difficult times and painful experiences God would allow us to pass through. In such difficult times you may think that God is not there or God is forsaking you; and this is what you feel when your prayers are not answered or when you pass into painful emergencies and God is not relieving you. But that is not true; God is still there beside you. What you need to do in those critical times is to follow what Jesus did, to persevere and till the end.***

***5) Work out to fulfil the Scripture: “28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.” (John 19:28 KJV)*** The Lord Jesus Christ said, ***“I thirst”***, because He came to fulfill the Scripture as He said, ***“17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. 19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:17-20 KJV)*** The Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfill the will of GOD and to do the Word of God as He said, ***“7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” (Psalm 40:7-8 KJV)*** ***We too must learn to obey God and His Word and fulfill the Scriptures in our lives in doing His will.***

The Lord Jesus Christ felt thirsty on the cross; He suffered as a human being with all the physical feeling of pain. He is hundred percent God, also He is hundred percent human. When He felt thirsty, although He is God, He humbled Himself and asked for a drink, **“6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11 KJV) We learn from Jesus’ action on the cross is to be humble; when we need something we need to humble ourselves, we go and ask, and not to have pride or arrogance.**

For what Jesus was thirsty when He said on the cross, **“I thirst”**? In few occasions in the Bible Jesus showed His desire to eat or drink. One of them was on the Last Supper at the night of His betrayal, as we can read now, **“14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.” (Luke 22:14-18 KJV)** Jesus wanted to eat the Passover and drink the fruit of the vine with His disciples before He suffered because He will not taste it until the Kingdom of God comes. **The spiritual meaning of the fruit of the vine means the righteousness of God that Jesus wants to see in the life of His disciples.** Jesus said, **“6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)**

Jesus is thirsty to see His disciples living their lives in holiness and righteousness for God. He is thirsty for people who have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives, who are filled with love, joy, faithfulness, gentleness, patience and self-control.

For what Jesus is hungry or thirsty and He likes to eat and drink? One time the Lord Jesus Christ was sitting with a Samaritan woman and was preaching to her the Word of God. **“31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. 32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. 33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? 34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” (John 4:31-34 KJV) And this should be our food as well, to preach the Word of God, and to reach the lost and to bring them to the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus is hungry and thirsty to see us doing God’s will and to finish His work by bringing new souls into His kingdom.**

**6) Work out to be perfect:** **“30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” (John 19:30 KJV)** The Word **“It is finished”** denotes the perfect work that Jesus fulfilled; all what is needed to be done. Jesus said, **“13 I am Alpha and Omega,**

**the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” (Revelation 22:13 KJV)** No one before Jesus and no one is after Him. He is the living Word of God. You cannot add to what He has done and you cannot subtract from what He constructed. **“15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1:15-20 KJV)** Jesus also said, **“6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)** You cannot reach Heaven and God the Father except through faith in Christ Jesus. He is the only way, **“5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6 KJV)**

**7) Commit yourself to God:** **“44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit; and having said thus, he gave up the ghost” (Luke 23: 44-46 KJV)** Jesus committed

His spirit into the hands of God, **“18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18 KJV)** Jesus died on the cross; His body died but His Spirit, the Spirit of God, was alive, **“19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” (1 Peter 3:19-20 KJV)** Jesus is God who appeared in flesh, His body was put to death but He continued to live by the Spirit with God. He spent three days into the heart of the earth and on the third day He rose from the dead and He is now alive. This is His Word, **“18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.” (Revelation 1:18 KJV)**

Jesus said to God, **“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:”** The Lord Jesus Christ entrusted Himself and His life to God the Father, **“23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:23-24 KJV)** God judges justly; Jesus made no threat or tried to revenge; He did not retaliate but He trusted God to receive justice from Him. **The same thing we can apply in our lives; we need to trust God when we face injustice from people who would take our rights. We ought to forgive them and release them into the hands of God and put the full matter under God’s control. “19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” (Romans 12: 19 KJV)** The Word of God it tells us about Jesus, **“17 He was oppressed, and he**

*was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7 KJV)* Jesus when suffered He did not open His mouth. He did not retaliate, not because He is weak, but He had entrusted the entire situation to God. There was power when Jesus kept silent, God worked it out for Him. **Therefore when you face injustice and people attacking you and you keep silent that does not mean you are weak. But you are strong because you are waiting for God to fight for you. Your silence means you had overcome the battle and trusted God to bring you the victory.**

**“26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.” (Proverbs 29:26 KJV)** The Lord’s servant will not quarrel, will not cry out and will not shout. Listen to what God had said about His chosen servant, the Lord Jesus Christ: **“18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. 19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. 20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. 21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.” (Matthew 12:18-21 KJV)** **God want those who serve Him do His work quietly; not involved in controversies, quarrels, arguments, revenge, or retaliation. God will not help if we do such things; His Spirit will not be there. He loves to work with those who put their trust in Him, “7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.” (Nahum 1:7 KJV)**

**My dear and beloved:** From what we learn from the above lessons we need to apply in our lives. Jesus did not live for Himself but for God and we ought to live not for ourselves but for Him who died on the cross and rose from the dead as we agree to pray.

**My prayer:** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross to give me eternal life. Father humble me and help me to do your will in my life; to forgive others, to preach the good news to the lost, to care for my family and to persevere up to the end, to fulfill the Scripture, to wait upon you and to fully trust you that you will give me justice and reward me for all my service and ministry unto you.

*Let us confess our sins and renounce them. Renounce, unforgiveness, anger, lack of compassion, carelessness, lack of commitment, non willingness to serve God, non willingness to suffer and non willingness to persevere until the end. Lord forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord thank you for all my brethren who committed their lives unto you. Lord help them to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit so people will see the characters and the attitudes of Jesus in their lives. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and use them to serve you, and to extend your arms of love and mercy to the world around us.*

*Lord bless us as a church, and help us to persevere to continue to do your will, to preach the gospel, to water baptize people, to make disciples, to train workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace*

*of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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