**Spoken From The Cross: When Adversity Strikes**

**Introduction**

1. This is the first of eight lessons in a series titled, ***“Spoken From The Cross.”***
2. An analysis of each phrase uttered from Jesus’ mouth as hung upon the cross will be given special attention with applications made.
3. These words speak volumes about the Son of God.
   1. He practiced what He preached in the hardest of situations as He plead with the Lord to forgive His offenders (**cf. Luke 23:34**).
   2. He was selfless in thought as He had sympathy for the grief His mother was experiencing. Her suffering caused Him to suffer (**cf. John 19:26-27**).
   3. His suffering was extreme. He thirsted, and suffered, as a man (**cf. John 19:28**).
   4. Among the many opposed, and encumbered by the severe pain, loneliness engulfed Him. Yet, He did not waver in love toward His Father, and anxiously awaited His glory (**cf. Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34**).
   5. He was able to accomplish more than was asked of Him when the thief asked to be remembered, showing immense power and mercy (**cf. Luke 23:43**).
   6. He was aware of His duties as the prophecy fulfiller, and saw them through to the bitter end (**cf. John 19:30**).
   7. He willingly and voluntarily laid His own life down for us (**cf. Luke 23:46**).
4. With these spoken words, Jesus character was manifested.
5. **Yet, the setting in which these words were spoken speaks volumes about Jesus as well.** 🡪
6. Leading To The Cross
7. Prayer in the Garden (**cf. Matthew 26:36-46**).
   1. **(v. 38**) – His whole life had been lived with anticipation for these last hours, and the burden was wearing on Him.
      1. **He would have to endure until it was finished. He was the only One who could perform this necessary task.**
      2. **Matthew 20:28** – Giving life a ransom in service.
      3. **Romans 3:25** – He was to be the propitiation for the sins of the world.
         1. **Propitiation – atoning victim; expiatory sacrifice (taking the place of others who are guilty).**
         2. Blood of bulls and goats could not satisfy God’s wrath, but reminded of the sin, and its consequences. Jesus would be that lamb, slaughtered, drained of blood, innocent (**cf. Hebrews 10:3-4**).
   2. **(v. 39)** – He remained submissive to the Father’s will.
   3. **(v. 40-41, 45-46)** – His disciples were still ignorant of what would have to take place.
      1. He simply asked for them to watch and pray while He experienced that agony in the garden.
      2. He caught them sleeping twice.
8. Betrayed by a friend.
   1. **(v. 47-50)** – Despite the love He had shown to Judas throughout His ministry, and the love He would continue to have unconditionally, Judas betrayed Him.
   2. **Jesus was being severely mistreated.**
9. Trial, and denied by a friend.
   1. Despite the immense evidence provided by Jesus during His ministry, His office and deity were unfairly questioned. He was accused of blasphemy.
   2. **All the while another follower whom He loved, who had firsthand experience of the power of Christ, and had shown his conviction with his confession, denied Christ** – **Luke 22:61-62** (After third denial, Jesus looked at Him).
   3. ***“I find no fault in Him at all” (John 18:38 – Pilate’s conclusion)***.
      1. Even though there was no evidence against Christ, just false claims, He was still punished.
      2. **Matthew 27:15-16, 21-22** – They had an opportunity to release an innocent one, but instead released a robber, Barabbas.
10. Scourged, Mocked, Crowned then crucified.
    1. **Matthew 27:26-31** – They humiliated Jesus in public, blaspheming His holy name, and inflicting unfathomable pain on His body.
       1. “The Roman scourge consisted of a short wooden handle to which several thongs were attached, the ends equipped with pieces of lead or brass and with sharply pointed bits of bone. The stripes were laid especially on the victim’s back, bared and bent. Generally two men were employed to administer this punishment, one lashing the victim from one side, one from the other side, with the result that the flesh was at times lacerated to such an extent that deep-seated veins and arteries, sometimes even entrails and inner organs, were exposed. Such flogging, from which Roman citizens were exempt (cf. Acts 16:37), often resulted in death.” (Hendriksen)
       2. **After this brutal torture no mercy was shown. The crown of thorns dug deep, and even the robe which the placed upon Him was sure to have hurt, having already been scourged.**
    2. The mockery continued to His death.
11. Jesus and Adversity
12. He serves as an example.
    1. **Even in the midst of all the injustice and adversity Jesus remained sinless.**
    2. **Not even a sinful thought entered His mind.**
    3. **1 Peter 2:21-25** – Adversity revealed His true character.
       1. ***“If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small” (Proverbs 24:10)***.
          1. Jesus was more than just talk.
          2. **When His integrity was tested to the extreme He handled the situation with such grace that pointed toward all He claimed to be.**
       2. Jesus did not retaliate one bit – ***“He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth” (Isaiah 53:7)***.
       3. He committed Himself to God – He only wished to remain blameless before God, Who would recognize His innocence and His offender’s guilt ***(“For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil” – 1 Peter 3:17***)
13. When Adversity Strikes, Character is Revealed
    1. **Matthew 13:20-21** – Parable of the sower. Seed sown on stony soil has no root and endures temporarily when adversity strikes.
       1. We must develop our own faith in order to maintain during adversity.
       2. **We cannot rely on anyone else’s faith, especially not to carry us through, but we can rely on Jesus.**
    2. **Philippians 2:12-13** – We must work out our OWN salvation.
       1. In doing so we can take comfort that God is working in us.
       2. ***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)*.**
    3. **By developing our own faith, we will have perspective established, and will be seen as spiritually minded when adversity appears.**
       1. **1 Peter 4:12-16 –** Suffering appears as something to rejoice in with the Christian.
       2. It is an opportunity to show ourselves faithful to God.
          1. Jesus is the perfect example of such – **Hebrews 12:1-2**
          2. He endured the cross, the pain, the shame, the anguish, because of the joy before Him.
          3. The salvation of those who He died for, and the glory He would receive.
       3. **We look to Jesus as we run this race, in the hopes of being found where He is in the end.**

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus had a mindset which transcended this physical realm.
2. Although tested as a man in every way we are, He was sinless.
3. Even on the cross He held His integrity, and showed His spiritual mindset as He uttered words that are wonderful to comprehend.
4. **The next 7 lessons will consider the words Jesus shared on the cross, as He suffered for mankind.**