

十架上的后三个小时：完美的成就——马可福音15:33-38

Last Three Hours of the Cross—Perfect Accomplishment—Mark 15:33-38

Introduction and Outline

- Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-38; Psalm 22

Mark 15:33-38 (NASB1995)

33 When the sixth hour came, darkness [p]fell over the whole land until the [q]ninth hour. 34 At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” which is translated, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” 35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they began saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” 36 Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” 37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. 38 And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

- The cross was invented to prolong suffering, causing people to struggle in extreme pain for several days before dying. But why did Jesus' suffering last only six hours? Why is it that unrepentant sinners must suffer eternal torment in hell, but repentant sinners who believe and follow Jesus are freed from eternal suffering just because of six hours of His suffering? How can all the sins of all believers from all nations in all ages be completely forgiven simply by the suffering of one man in just six hours? How is this possible?

The only explanation is Jesus' unique personhood. **Jesus suffered in His perfect human nature, experiencing God's wrath against sin more sharply and profoundly than we ever could, bearing all the pain that sin brings—both physically and spiritually. At the same time, because of His eternal divine nature, this suffering was infinitely magnified. In His unchanging person of divine nature, the suffering these six hours is experienced eternally in a way far beyond our comprehension.**

One pastor once summarized this mystery in this way: "It is an infinite wrath moved by infinite justice releasing infinite punishment on the infinite Son who alone could absorb all the torments of all the eternities of hell and accomplish all of it in six hours."

- Outline:

Title: Last Three Hours of the Cross—Perfect Accomplishment

1. Darkness Accomplished(v.33)
2. Forsakenness Accomplished (v.34)
3. Everything Accomplished (vv. 35-37)
4. Accomplished Result (v.38)

Darkness Accomplished(v.33)

- "When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.": This is the only description the Bible gives of those three hours. Nothing but complete darkness over the land. It wasn't until the very end of this period that Jesus broke the silence and spoke some final, crucial words.

- **【Explanation】** The term “all the land” could refer to the entire region of Israel, but early writings suggest that people outside of Israel might have also experienced this darkness. The term could refer to the whole earth, and some speculate that it was a global darkness. The lack of dialogue during this time is likely due to the fact that people were completely overwhelmed by this sudden darkness.

【Contrast】 When Jesus was born, the dark night sky was suddenly filled with glorious light (Luke 2:9); Here, as Jesus died, the bright noon day was suddenly engulfed in darkness. Jesus' birth brought light into the dark night, and Jesus' death brought darkness over the bright noonday.

John 1:5: "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

1 Peter 2:9: "...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Luke 22:53: "But this hour and the power of darkness are yours."

【Significance】 When people reject the Light of life, the inevitable result is the reign of darkness.

【Reflection】 God's inherent nature is light, not darkness. Why did He bring about darkness here in this moment?

1 John 1:5: "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

Psalms 84:11: "For the Lord God is a sun and shield"

Psalms 118:27: "The Lord is God, and He has given us light"

【Answer】 In the Bible, **darkness is often associated with God's judgment.** When God judges sin, the scene is often marked by various elements of darkness (see Exodus 10:21-23; Joel 2:2, 10; Amos 5:20; Zephaniah 1:14-15, etc.). Jesus also referred to **hell** as "**the outer darkness**" (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). It was this very darkness that fell upon the last three hours of the cross, for this is when God poured out all His wrath against all the sins of all believers upon Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21: "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

"What they couldn't see, as he slowly genuflected in the darkness, is that by an infinite active and submissive will, he was becoming sin for us. Wave upon wave of the world's sin poured onto sinless Jesus. Again and again, during those three hours, his soul recoiled and convulsed as the murders, the whorings, the lies, the hatreds, the jealousies, the prides of mankind, were poured onto his purity. Our sins found their way into his every sense, the very pores of his soul. What horror he must have felt as he became sin for us and felt his eyes and his hands and his feet and his lips and his heart, as if they were members of the evil one. He looked and he didn't know himself as he became something he could never be..., and that is sin." — One pastor

Forsakenness Accomplished (v.34)

- "MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" This is from Psalm 22:1, David's prayer.

【Mystery】 It is not hard to understand how David as a human could fall into such a spiritual low as if he was forsaken by God. But Jesus is fully and perfectly God—how could He experience the anguish of being forsaken by God? Can God forsake Himself? How does this fit with God's eternal, unchanging nature? How does it fit with the perfect loving relationship within the Trinity?

【Theology】 Why did the Father forsake Jesus? It was, of course, to accomplish salvation, so that you and I would not be eternally forsaken by God. The Father's forsaking of His beloved Son was so that we could become His children! **This is the cost of redemption.**

【Exegesis】 Jesus certainly knew this theological truth. So why did He ask such a question, as if He didn't know? Because in His human nature, He had never experienced anything like this! **Sin causes spiritual separation from God**, and this experience was completely foreign to Jesus. That's why He cried out in confusion and terror to God, to express the indescribable pain He was feeling.

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."

【In-depth Exegesis】 Jesus could've expressed His pain in many other ways, but He chose this particular phrase because He wanted to remind us that this was all **God's perfect will!** It is the **salvation plan that God has long revealed in the Old Testament.**

【Significance】 Jesus wants us to see that **God's Word is so trustworthy and complete that it can even explain the most unexpected spiritual experiences on the path of salvation!**

【Application】 When we experience something unexpected, where do we go to find the answer? **When Jesus was under the most unexpected emotional distress, He went to God's Word.** Shouldn't this teach us something?

One pastor saw from here something Christians might also experience. He says, "*They too, though chosen and beloved of the Father, may sometimes feel God's face turned away from them. They too, sometimes from illness of body, sometimes from peculiar affliction, sometimes from carelessness of walk, sometimes from God's sovereign will to draw them nearer to Himself, may be constrained to cry, 'My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?'*"

Everything Accomplished (vv. 35-37)

- "Behold, He is calling for Elijah.": The profound meaning behind Jesus' cry was completely misunderstood by those present at the time. They responded to Jesus with mocking sarcasm.
- "Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink.": The sour wine was a drink that Roman soldiers used to quench their thirst. Here, they offered it to Jesus as a way to alleviate His suffering. John 19:28-30 points out that this was also done to fulfill the Old Testament.

John 19:28-30: "After this, Jesus, knowing that **all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture**, said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full

of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. Therefore **when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!'** And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

【Key Point】 The drinking of sour wine is the last prophecy of messianic suffering that needed to be fulfilled. There's no other prophecy to be fulfilled! When they offered Him this sour wine, Jesus knew He had completed all His missions, and He could confidently surrender His life, knowing that the great work of redemption had been perfectly accomplished.

【Significance】 With such perfect work of redemption having been fully accomplished by Jesus, do we need to add anything from our own work? Can we even add anything? Jesus didn't even miss the smallest detail like drinking the sour wine, how could He possibly leave anything undone that we must make up for it? (This is a strong refutation of the error of Catholicism.)

【Application】 If we still think there's something lacking in our guilty conscience that somehow needs to be made right by our own good deeds, then we have not yet understood the meaning of the cross. If, however, we stand firm in the truth of the gospel, then we know that all we can do today is simply to respond with humble, grateful worship. There is no room for any kind of self-boasting in good works or trying to earn spiritual merit. **The Christian life should be one that flows naturally with all kinds of grateful worship by the Spirit, not one that is forced by human will to do all kinds of good works out of an artificial sense of guilt.**

Accomplished Result (v.38)

- "The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.": Behind the veil was the Most Holy Place, symbolizing the most sacred presence of God.

Hebrews 10:19-20: "Therefore, ... we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh"