



Blackfoot

Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 45

November 10, 2019

“FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT”

Lk.23:46

By Tommy Thornhill

Jesus has been on the cross 6 hours. His trial ended at the 6th hour Jn 19:14 (daylight-Roman time). In His account of the crucifixion John uses Roman time, while the other three gospel writers use Jewish time. This, to me, is one of the proofs why the gospel of John was written near the end of the 1st century, while Matthew, Mark and Luke were written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9 am (3rd hour) Mk 15:25. At noon (6th hour) darkness fell upon the land until the 9th hour. It is now the 9th hour Lk 23:44. During this last hour Jesus spoke 4 times as He was dying. The first words were “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” Then He cried, “I thirst.” After this He said, “It is finished.” Now, in the last moments of His life He cries out one more time with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” These are words of faith, contentment and confidence as Jesus bids farewell to His earthly live as man and prepares for His entrance back into heaven Heb 9:23-28. It is also worthy of note that the 7th words of Jesus on the cross had been spoken in prophecy centuries before Ps 31:1-5. In fact every one of the seven words of Jesus on the cross were either quotations from or allusions to prophetic words. 1. Isa 53:12. 2. Mt 1:21. 3. Lk 2:35. 4. Ps 22:1. 5. Ps 69:21. 6. Ps 22:31. “He has done this” could well be translated “He has finished it.” O what a wonder, the foreknowledge of the Godhead.

As has been noted several times, Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. This is His last and 7th utterance. The number seven in the Bible symbolizes completeness and perfection. In His work of creation, after God finished His

work on the 6th day, He was fully satisfied with what He had done, so He pronounced it "very good." He then rested on the 7th day Gen 1:31-2:3. So, seven is the symbol of rest from a finished work. Thus, in Jesus' seven words at Calvary, perfection is being displayed for a work that was "very good." He can now rest, well satisfied that the work He came to do is now completed. It is time for Him to rest in His Father's bosom.

Jesus died like no one else had ever died. His death was unique. Observe that as Jesus dies, none of the evangelists used terms normally used for one dying (he died, expired, quit breathing, etc). This strongly suggests that there was something in Jesus' death that set it apart from all others. 1. At the moment He dies He speaks with a voice full of trust and confidence, expressing no doubt, agitation, anxiety. The record says simply "He bowed His head and gave up His spirit" Jn 19:30. 2. As He died He cried out with a "loud voice" Mt 27:50. This indicates He was not dying by suffocation or physical exhaustion. Some say He died of a broken heart, which may be, but the true cause was His own sovereign will in submitting to the Father. 3. It was voluntary, "I commit My spirit." Jesus yielded up (released, dismissed, yielded up, let go) His spirit. He had the power to do this Jn 10:17-18; 19:30. The word gave means a voluntary act by choice, willingly, without force. This can be seen in Mt 27:50 "yielded up (dismissed) His spirit." Mk 15:37; Lk 23:46 "breathed His last." The death may have been a violent, cruel act on man's part, but on His part it was completely voluntary, freely done. No one took it from Him, He was in complete control all the way. In full power of His faculties He died voluntarily only when He was ready to do so, after He finished His work in the earthly body given Him by God Heb 10:5-7.

Just as Jesus' birth was unique, and His life unique, so was His death. No man could have died as He died. The cross symbolized Holy resignation to the Father's will Jn 18:11. This has been the case His whole life. His first recorded words show His concern for the Father's will Lk 2:49. On the cross His first words were "Father forgive them," now His last words, "Father, into your hand..." After completing His purpose in coming to the earth He now commits His spirit to God. Ever since Gethsemane He has been in the hands of wicked men, but now He will be in the hands of His Father. He will never again be at the mercy of ungodly men, suffering their mockery and humiliation. They had shouted "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify

Him!” But one day the tables will be turned. They will stand before Him on Judgment Day, and hear Him say, “Depart from Me, you who work iniquity.”

What is the spirit Jesus is committing to the Father? Man is a triune being (body soul, spirit) 1 Thes 5:23. Sometimes soul and spirit mean the same, the inner man. But here there is a difference Heb 4:12. The soul is the life force of the inner man, the seat of instinct, emotions and other powers that animate the body, whereas the spirit is the highest part of man’s inner being, the life principle, the mind Phil 2:5, the part that reasons, understands, chooses the actions of the body. It is that which distinguishes humans from animals. It is the part that links mankind with God. Note Zech 12:1. “Commit” or commend means “deposited with” or “entrusted with” 2 Tim 1:12. Jesus dismisses or deposits His spirit to His heavenly Father for safekeeping for use as the Father intends. He becomes the propitiation by His blood Rom 3:24. By His death God’s righteousness will be demonstrated, to be just and justifier Rom 3:26. He is returning to the Father His spirit, at the point of separating from the body Eccl 12:7. What do we see in Jesus on the cross as He submits to His Father’s will? 1. He is dying to save others Heb 2:9-10, 14-15; 7:25-28. 2. He could have saved Himself. It wasn’t nails that kept Him on the cross, for He could have called 12 legions of angels if He so chose. 3. He would not save Himself, but His death would save others. His mission required submission to the Father, proving obedience Heb 5:8-10. After His resurrection the angels remind His apostles this was something He had to do Lk 24:6-7. 4. Salvation required a human life as a sacrifice for sin, the giving of life to give life. His death as a man was not just passive submission but active obedience to His Father.

As He died graves of saints were opened Mt 27:52-53 and remained open until after Passover since it was unlawful for anyone to fill a grave during that time. Even to touch the dead would make one unclean. But they did not rise from the graves until after His resurrection. Then they arose and walked around in the city. They had to wait for Jesus to be raised 2 Tim 1:10. They were saints of that generation whose existence could be identified and verified by family and friends in the city. There would be no question about that later. They became living proof that Jesus had the keys to death and Hades Rev 1:18. Their graves being opened means that God knows the exact location of His redeemed ones, even those who have been asleep. Death is a sleep, showing that death is only temporary Jn 11:11. It was a prelude that

all would one day be raised In 5:28-29. The empty tomb three days later, the first day of the week, was God’s confirmation and approval of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection so He might become man’s redeemer and also to be the guarantee of our future resurrection 1 Cor 15:12-19.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Tom had surgery this past week for a torn retina
- Tom & Kate plan to travel this week to a discussion of church issues at Freed-Hardeman being held this Friday.
- Sylvia Ward, Ross’s Mom, undergoing in-home rehab; showing progress
- Cameron Bauman succumb to cancer
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines

**For prayer requests, call or text
Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590**

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Lord’s Table – David Porter

– Larry Thompson

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Invitation – David Porter

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](http://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)
www.blackfootchurch.com