

THE PLACE CALLED CALVARY

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."
Luke 23:33.

This world has many historical places. Some of these mark supreme struggles or crises in history. They tend to attract visitors from all lands. A magic spell rests over some of these scenes and places. Many of these places thrill us. They fill us with a deep sense of ecstasy.

We remember with tender and sacred feelings the dear old homestead of our youthful days. We sing that familiar and beautiful song: "Home, sweet home. There is no place like home." We also delight to think about various other places. They are of deep religious interest. You recall the place where you first came to know the Lord Jesus. Then, there are those sacred places where you have met with Him from time to time. Such places on the journey of life are always interesting to us. Many of them are places of great joy. Some of them may be places of sorrow. But they are places of hallowed memories. We shall never forget them. We love to think of them because they mean so much to us.

There are various Bible scenes for which we cherish a high regard. Let us draw near that divinely honored place that stands out boldly in the mind and heart of every Christian. It is a place more meaningful to the Christian than any other of all time. It is that "green hill far away" from which flows the river of life, of light, of liberty, and of love for a sin-cursed world. It is the place called Calvary.

Let us look at this place. There is a sacredness about it. Everyone who looks at the place realizes that there is always something heart-searching in the sight. It is the place where the Saviour and the sinner meet. It is the place where "Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree." It is the place where by His death upon the cross a way of salvation for man was revealed. Our only hope is in Him Who was lifted up on the cross at the place which is called Calvary. Concerning this place called Calvary, about which we are going to think in this service, there are three things that I want to say.

I. It Was a Place of Pain.

Yes, Jesus suffered intense pain while the hissing, howling mob looked on. "Behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto My sorrow." No one could ease a pang nor still a nerve nor quiet a quivering pulse. He endured unparalleled suffering. He suffered alone--all alone. It was necessary for Him to drink the very dregs of that cup. Yes, Jesus suffered and bled and died at the place called Calvary.

"We may not know, we can not tell
What pains He had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there."

Calvary speaks of suffering and pain. It does not speak of our suffering, but of the sufferings of our Saviour. He suffered as no other has ever suffered. In His body on that cross He bore the agonies of our humanity, carried on His shoulder the burdens of the world, and tasted death on the cruel cross for every man. Let us look at the place called Calvary, with all of its agonizing pain, as a sacred place. For it was there that Christ suffered and died in our stead. As soon as

you get the true picture of Calvary in your mind, you will be compelled to say, "If Jesus suffered all of that for me, I ought to love Him; I do love Him; and I shall ever love Him."

"Here, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
'Tis all that I can do."

II. It Was a Place of Pardon.

Calvary was the birthplace of our pardon. It was there, in the bitter agony of death, that He spoke the word of pardon to the dying thief. That certainly proved His readiness to pardon sinful men. There is pardon on Calvary. It is free, immediate, complete, and continual. Jesus delights in pardon. In the very agonies of death He absolved the thief and took him to the courts above as a trophy of victorious and redeeming love.

It is the place called Calvary, as nowhere else, that we see the heart of the loving Saviour. Of all the places in the universe, it is there that we come to see "the love that will not let us go." The pardon that was born at Calvary is like the fragrant flowers, their perfume is sweetest when you crush them and trample them under your feet.

"O ye who have wandered in sorrow away, --
There's pardon on Calvary;
A pardon to sinners is offered today;
There's pardon on Calvary.

Since Jesus has died on the cross for us all,
There's pardon on Calvary;
Your hearts can be cleansed if you come at His call;
There's pardon on Calvary.

His hand is held out in compassion to you,
There's pardon on Calvary;
Your long wasted lives He in love will renew;
There's pardon on Calvary.

O hasten to lay all your sin at His feet,
There's pardon on Calvary;
Come now and accept His redemption complete;
There's pardon on Calvary

There's pardon on Calvary,
There's pardon on Calvary;
A pardon of love from the Father above,
A pardon on Calvary."

III. It Was a Place of Promise.

Calvary is the place where the Saviour and the sinner meet. God has not wronged us, but we have wronged Him. Yet, He invites us to be reconciled unto Him. If we truly accept Christ as our Saviour He will receive and save us. It was on the cross that Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise." Beautiful promise of Calvary. All of the forces of hell will never be able to prevent us from entering glory to be with our Saviour because of what He did for us on Calvary. He arched the chasm between earth and heaven, and opened the way to glory for us. And now we have the

blessed privilege of remembering Him and what He did for us at the place called Calvary, which was a place of pain, a place of pardon, and a place of promise.

"O dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him, too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do."