

The Mercy of the Cross

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | MARCH 22, 2026

Text: Luke 23:26–43

“And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. 27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. 28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. 29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. 30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. 31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry? 32 And there were also two others, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. 33 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. 34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, 37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. 38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 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, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:26–43)

INTRODUCTION

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” (Zechariah 9:9)

“Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.” (Psalm 118:25–26)

1. THE _____ TOWARD HIS MERCY (v. 26)

A. The _____ of Simon (v. 26)

SIMON THE CYRENIAN

JESUS THE SUBSTITUTE

“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. 25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.” (Matthew 27:24–25)

“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)

“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

B. The _____ to the Crowd (v. 27–31)

THE WOMEN WARNED

THE FUTURE VIEWED

Quote: “If Jesus, the perfect Son of God, was condemned, how could the guilty parties who rejected Him possibly escape their rightful punishment?”

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Matthew 24:29–30)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! 35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” (Luke 13:34–35)

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” (Revelation 1:7)

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” (Hebrews 9:27)

2. THE _____ OF HIS MERCY (v. 33)

A. A _____ Place (v. 33a)

*“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
(Genesis 1:1)*

B. A _____ Place (v. 33b)

IT WAS REAL PAIN

“...for he that is hanged is accursed of God;” (Deuteronomy 21:23)
“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:” (Galatians 3:13)

IT WAS A REDEMPTIVE PLAN

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood...” (Romans 3:24–25)

Quote: “We took our sins and drove them like nails through His hands and feet. We lifted Him high up on the cross of our transgressions, and then we pierced His heart through with the spear of our unbelief.”

—Charles Spurgeon

3. THE _____ OF HIS MERCY (v. 34–47)

A. The Power of _____ (v. 34–39)

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17)

A WATCHING CROWD

*“And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,
40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it
in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down
from the cross.” (Matthew 27:39–40)*

THE RELIGIOUS RULERS

*“He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him:
for he said, I am the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:43)*

THE ROMAN SOLDIERS

*“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and
acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him;
he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath
borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him
stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded
for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes
we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:3–5)*

THE RAILING THIEF

B. The Power to _____ (v. 40–43)

THE THIEF’S REPENTANCE

*“The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in
his teeth.” (Matthew 27:44)*

“We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

*“Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance
toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(Acts 20:21)*

Quote: “Moreover, true repentance never exists except in
conjunction with faith, while on the other hand, wherever there
is true faith, there is also real repentance.”—**L. Berkhoff**

THE SAVIOR’S RECEPTION

*“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he
loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us
together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)” (Ephesians 2:4–5)*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of
yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man
should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)*

Quote: “The sinless One took on the face of a sinner so that we
sinners could take on the face of a saint.”

*“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)*

CONCLUSION

Quote: “The idea that all religions point to the same God is blasphemy. So is the idea that there are many ways to God. Buddah, Mary, Gaia, Mohammed and Christ are not equal. They do not all carry equal weight with the triune God of the Bible. Just one was God’s ‘Only Begotten Son’, and only He gives us access to God.”

Quote: “There is a great difference between realizing, ‘On the cross He was crucified,’ and ‘On the cross He was crucified for me.’”

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)



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