

MOUNT CALVARY
THE GOD WHO IS LOVE
Mark 15:1-28

If there ever was holy ground, the site of the crucifixion of Jesus has to be it. It goes by a number of different names in the Bible. Golgotha in Aramaic; Calvary in Latin; The skull in Luke.

There is so much to share from this passage and many of us grew up hearing this story our whole lives and I fear that many read it and hear it without pausing to reflect and remember what really took place on Mount Calvary.

It was on Mount Calvary that Jesus climbed the mountain of suffering and sacrifice. He died on Calvary's cross to pay the penalty for our sin and not ours only, but the sins of the whole world.

It is said that there is no more inhumane way to kill someone than by crucifixion. Crucifixion was so bad that the Romans made it against the law to inflict it on their own citizens.

What Jesus went through is hard to fathom. Before he was crucified, he was beaten by a professional torturer who was skilled at inflicting pain. He knew precisely how to use various whips and instruments meant to fillet the human body. It was not uncommon for a Roman scourging to be fatal in and of itself. Jesus was almost beaten to death but they managed to stop just short of death, and left just enough life in his body so that they could hang him on a cross as a public spectacle.

After the beating, Jesus was forced to carry his own cross until he could no longer bear the weight and Simon was compelled to carry it the rest of the way. On the top of Mount Calvary, Jesus was laid out and stretched across the timbers. Spikes were driven into his hands and feet. His feet were nailed together left over right and placed on a wooden platform that they would have pushed up to allow the knees to be bent. This positioning of his feet would enable the torture to continue even longer, as it would allow the crucified to push himself up to gather oxygen when his sagging body threatened to collapse his lungs.

This pushing up and sagging down process would happen over and over again until eventually the victim was no longer able to continue. Then asphyxiation would occur and ultimately take the life of the one hanging on the cross.

Why did Jesus die on Calvary's cross? To pay the price for our sins. To prove to us just how much God really loves us.

Rom 5:6-9 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Thank God for His love!