



# **Into Your Hands!**

**Luke 23:26-46**

**Sermon given on March 30, 2018**

**Calvary Chapel French Valley**

**Good Friday Service**

**@ FRM**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# INTO YOUR HANDS!

## *Luke 23:26-46*

### Greeting

- Welcome to Calvary Chapel French Valley
- My name is Rick, one of the pastors here
- We are going to be looking at a couple of places in the Bible
- If you would like to follow along and need a Bible they are on the tables around the room
- If there is not one close to you, raise your hand and one of the guys will bring you one
- Turn in the Bible to **Luke 23**
- The page number of the text we are looking at is up on the screen
- There is a point in all of our lives when we start to examine where we are in life
- And we compare the life we are living, with the ideal life that we want to be living
- And it is not uncommon for people to come to a point of crisis realizing that they are not living the life they want
- And then they will start to make changes to their circumstances in the hopes that it will lead them to the life they want
- But rarely does that actually work, and often it leads people even further from the life they want
- That is not to say that the life you want is bad or wrong
- It might not be the life you want that is the problem, it might be what you are committed to that is getting in the way
- Because, ultimately...

**What we are committed to is what will determine where our life ends up.**

- We are going to look at the account of the crucifixion of Christ and see what we can learn about our lives through the life and death of Christ
- **Pray!**

## Teaching

- **Into Your Hands!**

- The Friday before Easter is referred to as Good Friday
- It is the time we pause from our busy lives and remember that Jesus died on the cross, and was put into a tomb
- Easter is the celebration that remembers that He did not stay in that tomb but was resurrected and lives forever
- This is the hope that every believer has, that though we may die, we will also be resurrected to eternal life in heaven with Jesus
- Let me set the scene before we get into the text for tonight
- Jesus had spent the last three years of His life teaching, preaching, healing, working amazing miracles all around the land of Israel
- As important as all that was, it wasn't why Jesus came down from heaven and was born to the virgin Mary **1 Timothy 1:15**

**This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.**

- While everyone around Him had their own ideas about what that meant, Jesus knew it meant just one thing – Jesus came to save sinners from the power and spiritual consequences of their sin
- And to do that He had to make a perfect sacrifice of Himself on the cross
- After one last meal with His disciples, Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, where one of Jesus' disciples Judas betrayed Him into the hands of the Jewish religious leaders
- These men were jealous of Jesus and His influence over the people
- They falsely accused and tried Jesus, condemning Him to death
- Because they couldn't execute Him themselves, they took Jesus to the Roman governor Pilate to have him do it
- And on that fateful Friday morning, Pilate ordered the execution of the Christ
- Judas thought he was in control of what he was doing
- The religious leaders thought they were in control of destiny of this carpenter from Nazareth
- Pilate imagined himself in control of the situation around this odd man from Galilee

- When, in fact, each of them was fulfilling the role God had given them in His plan to redeem humankind from sin
- We will pick up the account as they are leading Jesus to the cross
- **Luke 23:26**
- Typically, the condemned would carry their own cross
- But Jesus had been brutally beaten and flogged almost to death
- It is only by the sovereign will of God that Jesus lived long enough to die on the cross

**What we are committed to is what will determine where our life ends up.**

- We are going to see in the text tonight four things that Luke recorded Jesus saying
- Each of them shows us something of Jesus' commitment to the story that God the Father had written for His life
- First thing Jesus is committed to is – **Hope**
- **Luke 23:27-32**
- 'do not weep for me' – Jesus is a bloody mess, and is minutes away from being nailed to a cross
- Jesus had a hope that allowed Him to see past the cross
- As horrible as the cross was, it was not the end
- As dark as the tomb was, it was not the final chapter of Christ's story
- The cross and the tomb were the necessary steps for Jesus to end up where the Father was leading Him
- Hope does that for us – it allows us to see past the hard and dark things of this life to see the good that God has in store for us
- It takes faith to be committed to hope – must believe that God is good and that He will stand by His word, no matter what
- Hope trusts God even in the hardest and darkest of places and times
- Jesus knew what came after the cross – glory in heaven forever
- We can't always see what comes after the hard and dark places and times of our life, but hope trusts that God does **Psalm 9:10**

**Those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.**

- God can be trusted – commit to place your hope in Him and trust Him to determine where your life ends up
- The second thing Jesus was committed to was – **Forgiveness**

- **Luke 23:32-34a**

- That is a remarkable for thing for Jesus to say
- Jesus is perfectly innocent – the most innocent man who has ever walked on the earth
- By nailing Jesus to the cross, they have just committed the greatest injustice in all of human history- past, present, or future
- And instead of cursing them, as any of us would have, Jesus asks the Father to forgive them – to erase this sin from their ledger
- To have the life you really want, you need the hope found the goodness of God and His promises
- And you need to be committed to forgiveness
- Forgiveness is the spiritual grease that keeps relationships moving smoothly
- In your car there are metal parts that move around other metal parts
- Without grease those metal parts create friction, heat, and eventually fail
- Same is true of our relationships – put any two sinners in close proximity to one another, and there will be friction
- Without forgiveness, that friction will damage the relationship, and can damage it permanently
- And the more friction there is, the more grease of forgiveness that is needed **Colossians 3:13**

**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.**

- On the cross Jesus asked God to forgive those wicked humans who nailed God the Son to a cross
- Jesus was committed to forgiveness and to making a way for us to be forgiven by God
- If we want to live the life that we really want, we will need to be committed to forgiving others to the same measure and degree that God has forgiven us for far less than nailing the Christ to the cross
- The third thing that Jesus was committed to – **Reconciliation**
- **Luke 23:34b-43**
- Turn to **2 Corinthians 5**
- Jesus, the perfectly innocent Lamb of God is hanging between two criminals who were getting what they deserved

- Jesus could have told the thief next to Him, Hey, I've got My own issues here...you're on your own
- No, Jesus came to reconcile humankind back to God and to one another
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**
- Life has a way of breaking relationships – with God and with other people
- Turn back to **Luke 23**
- Jesus died on the cross so that we could be reconciled back to God any time we have broken the relationship through sin
- And if we are committed to hope and forgiveness, we can also be committed to reconciliation to one another **Romans 12:18**

**If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**

- It is not always possible, but if we are committed to hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation – the impossible can become possible
- The fourth and last thing that Luke records that Jesus was committed to – **The Will of the Father**
- **Luke 23:44-46**
- From his earliest years, Jesus was committed to His Father, Almighty God
- The night before, as He wrestled with what the next day would bring, He recommitted Himself to the Father – “Not My will, but Your will be done.”
- Jesus was perfectly committed to hope, forgiveness, reconciliation, and to the will of God the Father – that didn't keep Him from the cross – it lead Him straight to it
- If you place your life into God's hands and fully commit yourself to Him it will not prevent hard and dark places and times from coming into your life
- But if you do put yourself into the hands of Almighty God through Christ, your stay in those hard and dark places and times will be only as long as necessary and they will lead you into the glory and blessings that God has for you on the other side

**What we are committed to is what will determine where our life ends up.**

- Put yourself into the loving hands of God

- Commit yourself to hope – look through your hard and dark places and times and see the sweet face of Jesus and the loving heart of God
- Commit yourself to forgiveness – walk in the forgiveness Christ obtained for us on the cross, and forgive others just as God has forgiven you
- Commit yourself to reconciliation – first with God and then with others
- Commit yourself to God the Father – live to make His will your will
- The life we all want is lived by committing ourselves fully to God based on what Christ did for us on the cross
- We are going to partake of Communion tonight
- I'm going to pray - Take a moment and reflect on these four things – examine your commitment – recommit! In your heart tell the Lord. 'Into Your hands I commit my spirit!'
- **Pray**
- **Communion**