

Advent Luncheon Message - DLCMA - Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

“Waiting Through the Pain” • Matthew 27:45-50

1. There is a reason we call childbirth “labor”! The pain, and the relief... but until then, hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel... goes on and on and on!
2. A lot of life is like that.
3. **Our pain may not be childbirth** —>
 - **Loss of a job** - **waiting** to find a new one
 - **Medical tests** - **waiting** to discover the results
 - A **relational tear** in your family - **waiting** for the emotional wounds to heal
 - Painful holiday **memories/loneliness** - **waiting** for the lights to come down
4. **Jesus understands** — he was born with a purpose. There are many “*I have come*” passages — **Mark 10:45**, “*The son of man came not to be served, but [came] to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*”
5. That is where we pick up in our Scripture today. Jesus fulfilling his purpose —> **Matthew 27:45-50**
6. **v. 45** tells us that Jesus hung on a cross for hours (actually 6) — experienced excruciating **physical** pain — eventually died of suffocation. But he also experienced excruciating **personal, emotional** pain - **v. 46**
7. **So**, do you think Jesus understands our pain—physical/emotional? [yes!]
8. But Jesus’ pain/death was **unique**. Different. *Why?*
9. Jesus was serving the sinner’s sentence —> experiencing divine **judgment** - *receiving God’s justice for sin* — Even the darkness is evidence — the darkest moment in human history (**not an eclipse** - passover during a full moon; eclipse only during a new moon — **a supernatural event**)
10. Jewish historian **Josephus** (in Antiquities) says the time of day for the daily sacrifice for Jews was the **9th hour** —> shadows / reminders of their need for an *ultimate, actual, efficacious* sacrifice
11. Some thought he was calling the prophet **Elijah** for help - **vv. 47-49** — no way!
12. Jesus was quoting **Psalms 22** — he actually quotes the *first* and *last* verses -- *the bookends*
 - He was forsaken
 - “It is finished” - **v. 50 [John 19:30]**

13. Those words reveal **WHY Jesus was born...** not merely a *moral example*, but as a *legal substitute* (**served the sentence**)

- **2 Cor. 5:21**
- Justice fulfilled
- Mercy extended

14. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

- (1) For those who know Jesus as Savior, there is a pain we will never experience
- (2) The pain, suffering, and hardships we do experience are **not punitive** (*we are NOT forsaken!*) - *corrective* and *perfective*
- (3) It has a purpose [**JESUS’ PAIN HAD A PURPOSE**]... and will come to an end — there IS a light at end of the tunnel —> **Romans 8:16-18**

15. Four epochs of human history

1. Creation
2. Fall
3. *Redemption*
4. Consummation/final restoration

16. My family spends two weeks every summer on top of Monteagle Mt... look forward to those weeks all year/renewal... now, my uncle owns the cottage — he pays to maintain it, repair it, he pays the AC bill, water, electricity, etc. -- it is a gift to us, but it costs him. ***The same is true with the gospel...***

- **The hope of glory** — “*You will be with me in paradise*” (**COSTLY GIFT**)
- **Do you have that hope?** *How do you think it would affect your life now if you did?*
- The gate to that paradise is the cross of Jesus, *where justice has been fulfilled and mercy extended as wide as the nail scarred hands of Jesus.*