

CALVARY the world's greatest meeting place
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(Luke 23:33)

Calvary stands in the centre of all the purposes of God; and it is fitting that around the cross men and women of all races should meet in unity of spirit. The Christ of the cross, and the cross of the Christ, represent the greatest meeting place in the world.

A Place of Revelation

With wonderment shining in their eyes, the centurion and the other people watched the Saviour, and marvelled at the things they witnessed. That He could ask His Father to forgive the apparently unpardonable crime, indicated virtue of high degree; and it was not a cause for amazement when the centurion suddenly exclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27 : 54). No man can intelligently listen in the shadow of Calvary's cross and not increase his knowledge of the One who died there. The small green hill is a great vantage point from which to view the heart of God.

A Place of Supplication

"And the thief said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23 :42). It is highly improbable that this unfortunate man had ever had previous contacts with the Lord Jesus. His former habits had been characterized by vice, and his companions had been men of ill repute. Losing his grasp upon the finer things of life, he had drifted on tides of evil. Then in the closing moments of his life, he met the Saviour. They were fellow travellers on the road of sorrow. Indescribable charm emanated from the soul of Christ, and beneath its soothing power the criminal felt the pull of another world. His eyesight was remarkably good-he looked at the dying Jesus, and saw a King reigning in glory. He had never been so near to royalty, and he made splendid use of the occasion.

A Place of Meditation

And sitting down, they watched him there" (Matt. 27 : 36). Amid the noisy clamour of that crowd of sensationalists who had come to stare at the executions, a company of men sat down patiently to watch the suffering prophet. They were anxious to see every detail of His agony and sufferings, and probably long afterward they were able to recount all the events of that fateful afternoon. Yet the greatest vision of that day could not be seen by mortal eyes. In that holy place of meditation many have since sat down to think, and during the course of their contemplations they have discovered the hill called Calvary to be a Jacob's ladder-a means of ascending into heaven.

A Place of Co-operation

"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold Thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold Thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her into his own home" (John 19 : 25-27). John was more privileged than all the other disciples, for into his faithful care the Lord Jesus entrusted His greatest earthly treasure. The disciple was commissioned to take

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his Lord's place in the life of the sorrowing Mary. The
privilege carried heavy responsibilities, for not every
disciple would be sufficiently trustworthy for this great
task. The Lord knew John would not fail Him; and His
mother, dearest and best of all earthly friends, would be
safe in the care of the beloved apostle. Would my
standard of loyalty beget such confidence?

A Place of Adoration

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy
... for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by
Thy blood out of every kindred, and people, and tongue,
and nation" (Rev. 5 :9). When we reach heaven, many
of our former experiences will undoubtedly have been
forgotten; yet the cross will remain in our thoughts for
ever. "We shall know our Redeemer when we reach the
other side-we shall know Him by the nail prints in His
hands." We shall realize also that our debt of love will
never be repaid, and perhaps in the language of John
Bunyan we shall say,

Blest Cross! Blest Sepulchre! Blest rather be
The Man who there was put to shame for me.

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