

Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church
Bible Education Ministry

Evangelism and Spiritual Growth

Theme:
“Lord, Remember Me?”

Adult Lessons
“Rose Hill Remote Study Edition”

UNIT I: THE WAY

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6 (NKJV)

Forward

The fear of the unknown or the threat posed by known circumstances can be overwhelming. Worries, doubts, and concerns are common to man, but our actions and reactions determine whose you are.

It is not good to make an outward show to prove to others that we are a Christian superstar. Apostle Paul said, “I glorify in my weaknesses,” but we know he was spiritually mature.

Our thirteen-lesson theme for the 2nd quarter is entitled:

LORD, REMEMBER ME?

We all know what Jesus’ response will be, but do we know the question He will ask after He answers us. The Old Testament is filled with this question from His prophets and kings. God never fails to answer.

“Lord, remember me?”

Jesus says, “Yes!”
“Do You Remember ME?”

Table of Contents

Rose Hill Remote.....	7
UNIT I: THE WAY	8
<i>LESSON 1: The WAY - The Vision of the Cross</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>LESSON 2: The WAY - The Father Forgives Us</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>LESSON 3: The WAY - Have You Forsaken Me?</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>LESSON 4: The WAY - Into the Hands of the Father</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Bible Translations Permission Statements</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Salvation through Grace: It is a Gift of God</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>My Discipleship Plan</i>	<i>35</i>

“Building Healthy Relationships in the Body of Christ”

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Connect with Rose Hill MBC worship services by phone:
COVID-19 Remote Worship Response Plan

Dial-in using your phone:
1 (571) 317-3112
Access Code: 479066437#

Sunday Morning:
Empowerment Hour 10:00 – 10:25
Worship Service 10:25 – 11:30

Wednesday Night:
Prayer 6:15 – 6:30 P.M.
Bible Study 6:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Note: Sunday & Wednesday are live on Facebook

UNIT I: THE WAY

GOD created man as a temple for His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰ Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. ²¹ We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.

In the beginning, man is created in the likeness and the image of GOD. God is a Spirit, and the Spirit has a voice called The Word of God. The Word was God was manifested in the flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth.

John 1:1 (NLT) In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God in the beginning had a way for man to become totally like Him through the “Tree of Life,” with the ability to live forever. However, because of Adam’s transgression, another holy and righteous is made available to man.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

God makes it easy for man to live with Him by offering to humanity the free-gift of grace. Man needs only to do but one thing, believe. Our belief, however, must be in the only way that God provides, and that is believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

John 1:12-13 (NLT) ¹² But to all who believed him (Jesus of Nazareth) and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

LESSON 1: The WAY - The Vision of the Cross

Background Scripture: Gen. 3:15; Gen. 6:5;

Num. 21:9; John 3:13-15; Isa. 53

Lesson Scripture: Isa. 53:4-5, 10-11

FOCUS VERSE. Isaiah 53:5 (KJV) 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.

I. INTRODUCTION.

Have you ever been lost traveling on a trip?

How did you find your way back on the right track to get to where you were going?

A feeling of being lost is a relative term. That is why a vision of the WAY is so important.

**L - Living
O - Outside of the
S - Safety of the
T - TRUTH**

Jessie Penn Lewis states in her book entitled, The Centrality of the Cross, "Let us pass on to see the cross as the center of the fixed point for victory over sin, over the world, and over the flesh.

In John 14:6, Jesus says He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that no man can come to the Father except by Him. Jesus' way is God doing for man what man cannot do for himself. John the Baptizer gives us a clear picture of God's LOVE for us by providing a way back to full fellowship with Him through grace in John 1:16-17.

John 1:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Grace, truth, and new life with God begin in the book of Genesis. God gives this prophetic word to us as a glimpse into His LOVE and righteousness. God knew that

man's with a free will, would create a division of fellowship, and it takes another man's free will sacrifice, to restore us back to Him.

Genesis 3:15 (KJV) And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed (unsaved) and her seed (Jesus of Nazareth); it (Jesus' Cross) shall bruise thy head (Satan as the serpent), and thou shalt bruise his heel.

New Living Translation reads in Genesis 3:15 (NLT) And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

If man is left to himself as history so well proves, he will destroy himself because the law of sin and death would rule in him. Genesis 6 is a record that shows the extent humanity will go without God in an unregenerate state.

Genesis 6:5 (ESV) The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Of course, this does not catch God by surprise because Noah is born in his ordained season. Noah shows how God provides a way of salvation. God must judge the wickedness of man because every intention of man's heart was evil all the time.

What about evil dominating in the world today?

Isaiah said who has believed our report. In Isaiah chapter 53, it seems as if Isaiah is looking at the scene of the crucifixion of Jesus and telling us about it.

Maybe we can improve our witness if we show others what we have seen and heard. Our witness finds revelation to others if it portrays the Cross working as the "I AM" as the Way. His way of doing things becomes our way. His way of walking in the Truth becomes completely our new Life in Christ Jesus. Not just some of the times, but all of the time.

So, let us venture back and see through the eyes of the prophet Isaiah the way of our salvation.

II. THE LESSON. Isa. 53:4-5, 10-11

A. Mission accomplished. Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NLT) Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

John the Baptist did not live to see the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross, but yet John points to His purpose. John's spiritual eyes could see the need of man from God's viewpoint, the need for the Passover Lamb of God.

In our day and time, the vicarious sacrifice is known according to our biblical knowledge, however, it does not always match the way we live our lives. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, vicarious in one sense means, "performed or suffered by one person as a substitute for another or to the benefit or advantage of another." In other words, we understand by knowledge that Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross for our sins.

How often in our lives, we allow our grief, worry, iniquities, and losses of inner peace overwhelm us. Yes, we are often guilty and deserving of punishment. This is the ultimate point of the gospel of Jesus Christ by His stripes **I am made whole** (healed).

Wait! I heard a man in prison say, you mean now I can sin without penalty. **God forbid!** As other translations would interpret, "Of course not!"

Romans 6:1-2 (NLT) ¹ Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? ² **Of course not!** Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

If the Spirit of God is dwelling in our heart richly, we have no recourse but to confess our sins and He will be faithful and just to forgive us of our sins.

1 John 1:6 (NLT) So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

Can this be a Way? We should remember the vision seen by Isaiah the Prophet in order for us to restore our fellowship with God.

B. Jesus' suffering becomes the executor of God's perfect will and plan; therefore, He produces many brethren.

Isaiah 53:10 (KJV) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:10 (NLT) But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.

Thank God, we can look to the Cross and forever see the LOVE that God had for us. It is not only a good Way, but also God's only Way to redeem man.

Paul reaffirms this:

Romans 8:29 (NLT) For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

There was an unseen sign in the Garden of Eden in front of the tree called "The knowledge of Good and Evil." It reads, **NO TRESPASSING**. Paul gives us a true picture of what happened once Adam and Eve violated the property line.

Romans 5:18 (NKJV) Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

Can you describe some invisible "No Trespassing" signs that are violated every day?

C. Christ dies according to His own WORD because the WORD was GOD, and the WORD became flesh for this purpose.

Isaiah 53:11 (KJV) He (the Father) shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his (the Father's) knowledge shall my righteous servant (Jesus - the man-servant) justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:11 (NLT) When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

God trained Saul in the Scriptures before He calls him as Paul into the ministry as an Apostle. Paul says that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, but we should also read what Paul says in the previous verse in 1 Corinthians 15:2.

1 Corinthians 15:2-3 (KJV) ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Corinthians 15:2-3 (NLT) ² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you – unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.

Satan attacks cannot reach the position from where we sit in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). When we lose our vision of the Cross and its eternal reward through our faith in Jesus Christ, we are most miserable. We get a sense of being lost. We must always remember the vision of the Way that God has provided for us; it was available even before we came into the world.

III. CONCLUSION.

Jesus, as the Lamb of God, is still vivid in the book of the Revelations of Jesus Christ. Yes, we have the knowledge and the reality of His crucifixion, but our practicing the resurrection power of His LIFE has all the glory and life. It produces a new song in us that we can sing right now.

Revelation 5:9 (ESV) And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were (the Lamb) slain, and by your blood, you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

Our look at the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is something we practice each time we partake of the “The Lord Supper.” Our view of our baptism should clear our conscience because the Word of God says so. It should clearly say, yes, I am buried in Him.

1 Peter 3:21 (KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Yes, we deserved to die, but we could not die for ourselves to satisfy the righteousness of God. Therefore, we look at what Isaiah saw so we might put into our memory the LOVE that God has for us. We need only to look up and live because we all have the poison of the serpent in our flesh. Yes, the flesh has power, but it cannot overcome the Spirit of Life within our spirit.

Romans 6:5-6 (KJV) ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶ **Knowing this**, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Look to the Cross-for the LOVE of GOD.

John 15:13-14 (NKJV) ¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. AMEN.

QUESTIONS.

- I. How should we look at the Cross?
 - a. With joy and thanksgiving in our hearts?
 - b. With conviction and repentance when we sin?
 - c. A price paid for us that only Jesus could pay.
 - d. All of the above.

IV. ILLUSTRATION.

Which way will we choose?	
Lamb's Book of Life	Satan's Book Lake of Fire
Belief in Christ Jesus	Unbelief period
Fellowship with God	Fellowship with Satan
Wisdom of God	Human wisdom
Peace of God	Loss of peace during a crisis
LIGHT (Revelation)	Angel of light (deception)
Joy in the Holy Ghost	Delight in perishing riches and health
LOVE	Lover of self
Power	Power over those of like kind
New Jerusalem	Lake of Fire

LESSON 2: The WAY - The Father Forgives Us

Background Scripture: Isa. 53:12;

John 3:14-18; Luke 23:26-38

Lesson Scripture: Isa. 53:12; Luke 23:32-35

FOCUS VERSE. Luke 23:34a (KJV) Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

I. INTRODUCTION.

Are there times in your life that you struggle with forgiveness from God?

Are there times in your life that you struggle to forgive others?

In our lesson, we find Jesus on the cross at Calvary. Jesus says, Father, forgive them because He knows this is the reason for His coming into the world. What the crucifiers do not realize is that Jesus' words were for their protection. Jesus knows His words have power and authority, but His motive is because of the LOVE of God the FATHER has for His people. Jesus' words are also allowing us in our day to see that without forgiveness, HIS DIVINE LIFE could not be imparted into us in a righteous way.

The WAY begins with a heart of forgiveness toward God and too humanity. Remember the example of the children of Israel in the wilderness in Num. 21:7. "We have sinned," they said. "For we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee (Moses); pray unto the LORD that he takes away the serpents from us." God started fulfilling this *eternally and forever* when Jesus spoke the words in John 3:14.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the Son of man be lifted up: **John 3:14 (KJV)**

Our intercessor, Christ Jesus, is in heaven seated on the right hand of God continually making intercession for us. It is a shame that many of us do not believe the eternal significance of those words, "Father, forgive them." Our Father gives us a way back to Him just by allowing us to have faith in the Word of Life spoken by Jesus Christ.

II. THE LESSON. Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:32-35

A. The way of forgiveness is seen in eternity past, but the way of remission for sins is according to God's timing and perfect will.

Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV) Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Seven hundred years or so before Jesus of Nazareth, God had poured out His heart through his prophet, Isaiah. We understand that if it is prophesized in the past, it will come true in the future. Dr. Carl Hughes sometimes quotes Romans 15:4 during the introduction of most of his sermons:

Romans 15:4 (KJV) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

For this reason, we need to accept the forgiveness petitioned for us by the only begotten Son of God. Thank you, Father, that in Christ Jesus, we will always have a covenant of forgiveness purchased by the righteous blood of Jesus Christ. Sadly, to say, the scripture said He *only bare the sin of the many*. Many will not accept the free-gift of forgiveness. How sad.

Even sadder are times when even a Christian does not forgive others that hurt them. Is there any hurt worse than what Christ has endured for us on the Cross?

B. How we view Jesus and the two malefactors or criminals is how we should see ourselves.

Luke 23:32-33 (NKJV) ³² There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. ³³ And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Our calendar says it has been over two thousand years since Jesus was crucified on the cross. God marks the time, so everyone will have a new starting point. Therefore, Jesus is not only the center of time for humanity; Jesus is the absolute center for man to make his decision about where he wants to spend eternity.

Matthew 25:34 (NKJV) Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV) Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

The question now before us is which side are we on? John the Baptist told his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Now those very words are on full display on the cross. The decision now is to choose you this day whom you will serve.

These words of Jesus, "Father, forgive them" should be engrafted into our memory because when we sin, we will get a sense of lost fellowship with God. On top of that, the devil, the accuser of the brethren, will take this opportunity to war with your mind and even take it to the throne of God. Just remember the "WAY" back, 1 John 1:9.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C. So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Luke 23:34-35 (KJV) 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.

Look how easy Jesus makes the decision for man. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, so man has to do but one thing. That one thing is to believe and receive the Word spoken by Jesus. Jesus asks His FATHER to forgive those who are crucifying Him, and we believe that this same forgiveness is available for us if we accept it.

This forgiveness is not only for our sins, but it is also to forgive us for what we are from birth. We are all born in sin and shaped in iniquity. Believe it or not, most of the time, we do not know what we are doing.

Forgive us because we sometimes do not know what we are saying. Have we ever asked ourselves, "Why did I say that?"

Forgive us because sometimes we do not know where we are going, why we are going there, nor did we know what we were supposed to do.

Father, forgive us, for we do not know what we are!

The Bible does not say which thief was on the left or on the right. For me, it does not matter because one day, I did not see three people being crucified but just ONE. Once we accept God's way of salvation through forgiveness, we are in Christ Jesus by way of the Cross. Apostle Paul makes this clear in most of his letters, but my favorite is found in Gal. 2:20.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Wait, the question you should have is why did I say I see only one person on the Cross? My vision sees and hears the conversation of the two thieves and their conversations with Jesus. From this, it reminds me of who I was as an unrepentant sinner. At the beginning of their crucifixion, both thieves railed on Jesus saying save us if you are the Christ.

Luke 23:39-41 (KJV) ³⁹ And one of the malefactors (our flesh) which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

Well, to tell the truth, my flesh says this all the time, just like the thief my flesh really is.

Do we not hear some people say, God, cannot forgive a wretch like me? Did they not hear Jesus say, "Father, forgive them?"

Now my mind kicks into gear and hears His word of forgiveness; then comes the confession of the mouth, having found **the way** of forgiveness through His words.

Luke 23:40-41 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."

Oh yeah, I cannot leave out the best part of the conversation.

Luke 23:42 (NKJV) Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Do we sometimes get to the point where we just get lost and just do not know how to find our way home? In this case, just say these three words. "Lord, remember me?"

In order to make this real in our lives, we must have faith in the Word out of a pure conscience. It is imperative to believe that God has forgiven us of every failure, especially if we are holding it in our hearts. Listen what the Hebrew writer said,

Looking unto Jesus *the author and finisher of our faith*; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured (*the Cross-for*) such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest *ye be wearied and faint in your minds*. **Heb. 12:2-3 (KJV)**

Simply put, if we stray in our thinking that the Cross-is not the central point or the starting point, we will get weary and faint in *our minds*. The Holy Spirit gives us a heart of repentance. It is at this point that the Cross-becomes active to begin a new relationship with God and, in some cases, to restore a right standing with God. That is a pure heart of forgiveness.

The Psalmist said,

For thou, Lord, *art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy* unto all them that call upon thee. **Psa. 86:5 (KJV)**

III. CONCLUSION.

Sometimes we feel like we are going to die when we are in the process of forgiving someone. Just the thought causes the flesh to protest. We say, "You do not understand what they said or did to me." "They did not listen to me in the first place," and on and on and on we go.

Yet when they reviled Him, He did not speak a word. When those types of thoughts come upon us, we should say, "Lord, forgive us." Think about the agony and disappointment of the FATHER when we do not forgive. It grieves HIM in his heart. Yet Jesus is still making intercession for us. Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.

IV. ILLUSTRATION.

I am crucified with Christ	I am working on it!
My conscience speaks when I need to forgive someone.	I refuse to do anything about it.
I am willing to forgive even though I was not wrong, but just misunderstood	I will forgive only if I find out I am wrong
Stephen when being stoned to death sees Jesus on the throne	Saul is standing by looking, but God was working on him

Do you remember Jesus said, "Father, forgive them?"

LESSON 3: The WAY - Have You Forsaken Me?

Background Scripture: Psa. 22:1; Matt. 27:45-47; Mark 15:33-36

Lesson Scripture: Mark 15:33-36

FOCUS VERSE. Mark 15:33 (KJV) And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Have you ever felt forsaken by God?

Can God leave a Christian eternally?

What is the cure for the feeling of being forsaken by God?

I. INTRODUCTION.

When the “sixth” hour, representing man’s hour, has come, darkness is allowed to cover the whole land. It is not a natural solar eclipse because such an eclipse can only occur during a full moon. The conclusion reached by the English Standard Version Bible (ESV) was this is a supernatural act of God.

It is the hour that the “Son of Man” who is Jesus of Nazareth has the iniquity (the nature of the Serpent) placed upon Him that GOD must judge. He spoke this into existence in John 3:14, so now it is happening.

John 3:14 (KJV) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

The prophecy concerning Jesus, the Son of Man, must happen.

Isaiah 53:6c (KJV) ... and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

This is the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, because now we have a reliable **WAY** to return to God because it fulfills *all the requirements of the LAW*.

Romans 8:3 (KJV) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

As ambassadors for Christ, we must carry this truth to the world. It is also a reminder to Christians about the ministry of reconciliation as Apostle Paul teaches the churches.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(Read also Gal. 3:13 and Col. 2:14)

These words, “My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?” should be received by faith that once it is spoken by Jesus, I never have to say them for myself. Why, because He paid it **all**. The example was given by David in Psa. 22. He begins the psalm with the same words Jesus quotes on the Cross and tells of the agony of one being crucified unjustly.

The ESV commentary says, “But this portrayal of Jesus in light of Psalm 22 allows Christ’s followers as well to expect some kind of vindication, as verses 22-31 describe; they are not disappointed as they read the resurrection account.”

Psalm 22:24 (KJV) For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; **neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.**

In like manner, God heard His cry and we should let His cry be our victory.

II. THE LESSON. Mark 15:33-36

A. This is Satan’s hour, the hour of the power of darkness.

Mark 15:33 (KJV) And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Jesus knows what is coming. Jesus’ mind is fixed after the “wine-press” experience in the garden of Gethsemane. He is prepared for what happens at the Cross. The external forces of Satan’s kingdom are allowed to weigh heavenly upon Him. We must be aware of the fact that when God allows us to meet with this type of opposition, victory awaits on the other side of this massive storm. The secret is Jesus has already paved the “WAY” for us.

Luke 22:53 (KJV) When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but **this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**

What hour are we in now? These are the last days. Even though we mourn, we must rejoice at the same time because the victory is won by our faith in Christ Jesus. Oh yeah, *this is the only way.*

Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;
But when a wicked *man* rules, the people groan.

What hour are we in our own lives?

Primarily, how is our relationship with God?

Is it all one-sided whereas God is doing all the giving and showing us all the favor?

Does God gets first place in everything in our lives?

What about our relationships with our church, family, friends or on the job?

We all have something, but the Holy Spirit always knows what to do when there is darkness and pain. We must be patient and wait on the Lord.

Here is a significant key in the Bible that is revealed in the way God composes His Word of Life. The fourth saying of Jesus is recorded in the gospels of Matthew (Jesus as the King of kings), Mark (Jesus as the Servant Savior), and Luke (Jesus as the Perfect Man), but not in the gospel of John (Jesus as the Son of God). You can readily see how it cannot be found in the gospel of John because of John 1:1.

John 1:1 (KJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God cannot testify against Himself. What God can do is reveal to the church that they are now a kingdom of priests and have authority or Kingship: 1 Pet. 2:9; Eph. 1:22-23.

We are servants of Jesus Christ as in Stewardship - Rom. 1:1. We press toward the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus, our Discipleship - Eph. 3:14. Since we are already sitting in Him in high places (Eph. 2:6) as a Christian, it is never our spiritual man that has the problem because it is sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise - Eph. 1:13. It is by faith in His Jesus as the WORD, which gives us great assurance in this life.

B. The feeling of Divine abandonment causes us to cry out to God.

Mark 15:34 (KJV) And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi (el-ee) Eloi, lama sa-bach-tha-ni? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

The ESV says, "Jesus knows why He is experiencing God-forsakenness, just as He knows His death will not be the end of His story." This should give us great comfort to believe that if Jesus said it, that settles it and I believe it. That was an old saying back in the day but it still has some merit. If we can look back to the Cross-whenever we are experiencing extreme circumstances, we will find deliverance in our warfare with Satan and his kingdom of darkness.

If we live in sins too long without confessing them, we will feel forsaken by God. Nevertheless, Jesus our intercessor says I will never leave you nor forsake you. Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit as a Comforter to be with us forever.

C. Do not let others assume we will call on any other person or God except the ONE true GOD (The FATHER) in the name of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent.

Mark 15:35-36 (KJV) And some of them that stood by, when they heard *it*, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. ³⁶ And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

We must assume that the mixed crowd knew that Elijah went away into heaven on a chariot of fire and did not die (2 Kings 2:11). It was another insult to Jesus in believing that He is not the Son of God and that He was not speaking to His FATHER.

We can also hear the voice of Satan once again through one who is standing by. "Let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." It was similar to one of Satan's temptations of Jesus in the wilderness.

Luke 4:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For it is written: '*He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,*' ¹¹ "and, '*In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.*' "

Let us neither be tempted to test God outside of His perfect will. Thank God, He has a permissive will for all of our shortcomings.

The best news is found in the gospel of Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

If what Jesus says on the cross, “My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me” is not from a sinful nature, then we can take it do the bank. We will never have the sins of the whole world laid upon us. We only need to deal with our faults.

III. CONCLUSION.

The Bible demonstrates how Jesus fulfills all the LAW and the Prophets in full. The *ninth hour sacrifices of the Old Testament priests were allowed even during persecution.*

The Antiquities of the Jews, 14.65

Flavius Josephus translated by William Whiston

65. And any one may hence learn how very great piety we exercise towards God, and the observance of his laws, since the priests were not at all hindered from their sacred ministrations by their fear during this siege, but did still twice a day, in the morning and about the ninth hour, offer their sacrifices on the altar; nor did they omit those sacrifices, if any melancholy accident happened by the stones that were thrown among them;

The lesson is that even when they were under immense attack from a foreign nation, the priests were still offering up sacrifices to God for the sins of the people. Now we need only to call on the Father in the name of Jesus and all will be according to His will.

QUESTIONS.

1. Should a Christian ever feel totally forsaken by God?
2. How do we fix the attitude of being forsaken by God?

IV. ILLUSTRATION.

Reasons for feeling forsaken by God	Guidance from the Word
Love one dies even after you prayed	Look to the Cross
Bitterness in the heart	Look to the Cross
Family forsakes us	Look to the Cross
Church family not there in the time of need	Look to the Cross
Struggling financially but paying tithes	Look to the Cross
Depression with a dark cloud	Look to the Cross

When we feel forsaken, are we saying, “Lord, remember me?”

You can now feel His response. “Yes, I remember you. Do you remember Me?”

LESSON 4: The WAY - Into the Hands of the Father

Background Scripture: Psa. 31:5; Luke 23:45-49

Lesson Scripture: Luke 23:45-48

FOCUS VERSE. Luke 23:47 (KJV) Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

I. INTRODUCTION.

In the Bible, we learn how God makes Himself known to one such as Moses. In the past, God presence fills the Tabernacle and finally filld Temple built by King Solomon. These locations are temporary and none can compare to the Temple of God called man.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Therefore, Jesus comes as the second Adam or man to be the chief cornerstone to build God's temple. GOD could dwell and work through Jesus of Nazareth because He was holy, righteous, and pure of heart. Paul testifies of this in Col. 2:9.

Colossians 2:9 (NKJV) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

However, Jesus had to prepare a WAY for us first through redemption as the Lamb of God, a lamb without spot or blemish. In times past, an earthly priesthood was required with the sacrifices of animals over and over again.

Hebrews 9:6-7 (NLT) ⁶When these things were all in place, the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. ⁷But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Now, through Christ Jesus, we have access to God because He was offered for the last time to satisfy the requirements of the LAW.

II. THE LESSON. Luke 23:45-48

A. The glory of the SON in us cannot be seen if the darkness in our heart rules. Faith in His death gives us free access to God.

Luke 23:45 (NKJV) Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

We can look at the symbolic meaning of the sun becoming dark, but let us focus on how Jesus' suffering ensures our victory during the dark times in lives. Remember, in Luke's gospel, Jesus is the Son of Man, so only a perfect man can enter into the Holy of Holies.

Luke says the sun was darkened. Jesus, the Son of God, has the sins of the world placed upon Him. His glory was dimmed. We should not let the darkness of this world overwhelm us. However, at the same time, we should not practice sin or allow our sinful nature to rule in us, if so, our heart will be darkened and become cold.

By faith in the victory of Jesus Christ, we are more than conquerors through Him. If we have allowed our sins to take charge, we can still come to Him by faith through repentance confessing our sins unto Him. This is how we open the veil in our hearts and once again have full access to covenant fellowship that Jesus won on the Cross.

Remember, this victory was won over two thousand years ago. Only God Himself can rent the veil of the temple from top to bottom. God does this one time, not many times over. We walk by faith on what God has done in Christ and not by sight.

B. Our new life begins when we put our lives into the hands of the Father.

Luke 23:46 (NKJV) And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

The Bible confirms through the Apostle John that Jesus willingly lays down His life for His sheep.

John 10:17-18 (KJV) ¹⁷Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

The gospel or the good news is once we believe Jesus laid down His LIFE for us and rose for our justification; we immediately are in the hands of the FATHER. Jesus tells us that eternal life comes with an everlasting covenant through Him with the FATHER.

John 10:28-30 (NKJV) ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

Yes, sometimes darkness does come into our lives, and we might be tempted to believe that all is lost. It is in this mindset when we ask the question, "Lord, remember me." Of course, He will answer eventually, "Yes, but do you remember Me?"

Therefore, we must renew our minds with the TRUTH, hear and believe the gospel.

"**Now faith is,**" the Hebrew writer says. The helmet of salvation should protect us from attacks from the outside, but it is up to us to bring under subjection all thoughts in our minds as well. Unconfessed sins, unforgiveness, worry, and many other things in the flesh and from the devil, will cause some to believe they are not in the FATHER'S hand.

Remember, our spirit, the inner man, is in Christ Jesus seated in heavenly places. However, we must be good stewards of our soul and bodies. We must walk by the Spirit in our spirit, so we will not yield to the power of the flesh. It is our choice.

C. The witness to the glory of God.

Luke 23:47 (NKJV) So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"

Jesus is our standard of behavior. We might be the only Bible some people will read. What did the centurion see and hear during his time near Jesus? In summary, the ESV Bible commentary says that what he saw includes Jesus' behavior toward his enemies, the words spoken to the repentant criminal, the supernatural darkness, Jesus' prayer to God and His giving up His life. Now the centurion gives a confession that Jesus was the Son of God (Matt. 27:54) and a righteous man.

Our lives in every way and in all circumstances should illustrate to others that we are the sons of God. Whatever we do to the contrary shows a misguided testimony of whose we are.

God will not allow the glory of Christ Jesus be misrepresented in this way. However, you might say, brother, they do it all the time. Well, all I can do is give you the Word of God.

Listen to how the Apostle Paul describes the worst of them.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV) ¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Yes, even the born-again saints will act up sometimes. The difference is whether they are sorry for their behavior.

D. Others found a place for grief and repentance at the Cross.

Luke 23:48 (NKJV) And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned..

When we read Luke 18:13, we get a better sense of why others smote their breasts.

Luke 18:13 (NKJV) And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

A life well spent before men give others a reason to repent with a mouth of confession to call on the name of Jesus. Did we not feel this when we got news of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.? We wanted to do better with our lives, showing that his death was not in vain.

Jesus operating in the lives of men has this effect on many. The repentant publican is coming forward to pray as if he is saying, Lord, remember me. I know who I am and I want to do better. When we look back at the Cross, we must remember this is the reason that He died for us. He says, yes, I remember you. However, do you remember Me?

III. CONCLUSION.

We are never alone in our suffering, neither should we glorify in anything we do. We should continually commit all things into the hands of God for His glory.

1 Peter 5:6-9 (NLT) ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your

Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

QUESTIONS.

1. Where does our spirit co-live while we are alive on the earth? John 17:21-26
2. Does the Spirit of Christ Jesus live within us? John 4:10, 14; Matt. 28:20
3. Why do we have to renew our minds? See Rom. 12: 2

Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

IV. ILLUSTRATION.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we see the best illustration of a saint who is fully committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Stephen the deacon gave a historical testimony before the Jews convicting them of killing the Just One of God. As a result, Stephen is stoned to death. Before his life ends, we hear his heart of forgiveness.

Acts 7:59-60 (KJV) ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. ⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

His heart was most likely influenced by what he sees beforehand.

Acts 7:55-56 (KJV) ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

When we keep our eyes steadfastly on the Cross which is the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, heaven is open to us in all things we do. Therefore, all things will be according to the will of God, which is a testimony that our spirit is walking by the Spirit of the Holy Ghost.

When we stray, it is our prayer that we will hear the Holy Spirit say, "Do you remember Him?"

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Salvation through Grace: It is a Gift of God

Our Mission:

Acts 26:18 (NLT) to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

❖ *Do you believe God loves you?*

Good News:

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16 (NLT)**

God gave us His Son because of LOVE so that we might have and share in HIS everlasting life.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. **Romans 5:8 (NLT)**

❖ *What made me a sinner so that I need God's love?*

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for *(that)* everyone sinned. **Romans 5:12 (NLT)**

Good News:

For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even more significant is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:17 (NLT)**

¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. **Romans 5:18-19 (NLT)**

❖ *What must I do to be saved?*

Good News:

Acts 16:31 (NLT) They *(anyone lost)* replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."

John 1:12-13 (NLT) ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

John 5:24 (NLT) “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Good News: Confession is good for the soul.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT) ⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

❖ **A prayer to confirm Jesus as your savior:**

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins, and I understand and receive you as my Savior. Thank you for accepting me as your child and help me live to please you. Amen.

The Need To Be Baptized

Baptism is an outward expression of what I believe is the “TRUTH” in my spirit. By doing this outward act, I proclaim to the world that I am a child of God.

Our baptism testimony is an outward demonstration that the old me is dead, and the new me is striving to live unto God.

Romans 10:17 (KJV) So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Now **GROW**:

Go to church;

Read Bible (Gospel of John; 1 John, 2 John & 3 John) & Pray Daily;

Obey the Word and live by the Word,

Witness (Each One – Reach One - Love Out Loud)

My Discipleship Plan

Objective:

Challenge yourselves to be still and listen to God. Prayerfully ask God to show you where you need growth.

Results:

God shows us what we need during this season to grow spiritually.

Accept that spiritual growth often comes at the most inconvenient times and in the most uncomfortable forms.

Spend time with God every day through Bible reading and prayer.

Recognize that growth comes a little at a time as we continue to seek God each day.

Learning, Listening and Doing

My Personal Growth Plan:

I WILL:
