Sayings from the Cross 2

Today, we’re continuing to ______ what Jesus said while He was on the cross. Jesus spoke, let’s listen. Listening to the words of the Lord Jesus opens our ______ to God. Truly listening to a loved one or friend is one of the most ______ things you can do. Listening to the Lord is not only a way to love Him but also necessary to our ______ life. Jesus has the words of eternal life; and we need to ______ and __________ what He says, if we plan to have eternal life, let’s listen to Jesus.

I’ve spent several months ___________ the period between the Last Supper and the day of Pentecost, focusing on the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of my Lord Jesus Christ. More than once I’ve _____ over the suffering, marveled at His strength of character, wondered at the hard-hearted Jewish leaders, and rejoiced at the victory of the empty tomb! These days in the first century were the ______ important of all time. If we lose sight of these days, we’re truly impoverished.

I don’t know of a spiritual or a social __________ that wouldn’t find help by a long look at the gospel events. I’m more than grateful that I can ________ with my Lord Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-7). I can be planted with Christ, so that I can ______ in newness of life. I can be ______ from an old man of sin and live with a good conscience. I can have joy and peace and hope! I can ______ with Him for a time so that I can one day be glorified with Him forever. I can let Him live with me each day, so that I can live with Him _______. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Our reading comes from the book of Isaiah the prophet, chapter 53, verses 10 to 12.

That’s what the Lord Jesus did for you and for me.

We are continuing in this lesson our study of the words Jesus spoke while on the ______. It must have been ______ for him to speak, since crucifixion caused intense thirst and great pain just to ______. Although it must have been the most painful experience of His life, Jesus didn’t ______ of His physical pain upon the cross; but something more harsh than physical pain came from His lips. Matthew 27:46 says, “about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a ______ voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” This is not so much a cry of physical pain as it is a ______ heartache.

J. W. McGarvey, a biblical scholar in years past, offered this insight, “We can imagine what it would ______ to a righteous man to feel that he was forsaken of God. But the more we feel and enjoy the ______ of another, the greater our sense of ______ at being deprived of it. Considering, therefore, the near and dear relationship between the Son and Father, it’s evident that we can never know or fathom the depth of ______ which this cry expressed. Suffice it to say, that this was without doubt the most excruciating of all Christ’s sufferings, and it, too, was a suffering in our stead.”

Jesus bore the punishment for the ______ of all people in all places for all time. “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the ______, having become a curse for us—for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’” (Galatians 3:13); and this is a quotation from Deuteronomy 21:23. By suffering on the cross, Jesus actually became a curse for our ______. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for
our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like _______ have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him” (Isaiah 53:5-6).

We committed the sins, but the Lord _______ the punishment for your sins and mine. The scourging fell upon Jesus, so that _____ could be healed spiritually. Isaiah continued in verse 8, “By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?” You and I __________ the punishment; but Jesus willingly took it in our _________. Out of love He laid down His life on His own initiative.

Isaiah says, “But the LORD was ________ to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; And by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, And He will _______ their iniquities. And therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the _____ of many, And interceded for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:11-12). Jesus endured all the anguish of being a guilt offering and being numbered with the transgressors, yet He endured it to ______ the many, to bear their iniquities, and to intercede for their transgressions.

Jesus knew beforehand what He had to _______ at the trials and at Golgotha. He wept and prayed at Gethsemane that this cup of wrath might _______ from Him. In the end He willingly laid down His life out of _______ for the Father and for you and for me. To take up His cross meant He took up suffering. Second Corinthians 5:21 says that God “made Him (that is, Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin on our ________, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus knew what He must do. Hebrews 10:5-7 says: “Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a _______ you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.’ And then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your _______, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book’” (Hebrews 10:5-7). Jesus the Lord took on _______ for the very purpose of offering His body as a sacrifice for our sins.

For Jesus, His sacrifice was very ___________. He knew God had to punish Him in order to ________ for our sins. So Jesus gave His ______ to a crown of thorns, His ______ to slaps and spit, His _______ to whips and scourging, His hands and feet to nails, His _______ to a spear, and His blood to purchase our redemption. First Peter 2:24 says, “And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” His body and blood physically endured the suffering so that He could heal us spiritually with His wounds.

First Peter 3:18 explains, “For Christ also suffered _______ for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might _______ us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.” Jesus was a sinless, righteous ___________ for the sins of mankind. Like any sacrifice, Jesus was Himself innocent and righteous but bore the _______ for the guilty. God has forsaken Him, so that He wouldn’t have to forsake _______. His excruciating suffering and death for our sins was necessary to satisfy the _______ of the Father against the sins of the world. He bore our sins as a sacrifice that atoned for our sin. He interceded for us and bore the stroke due His people and potentially for the whole world (Hebrews 2:9).
Peter remarks that during this time on the cross, Jesus “was ___________ Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:23); Peter notes that we should do the _______ when we’re treated unjustly in 1 Peter 4:19. Jesus suffered physically and emotionally the _______ of humiliation, rejection, mocking, scourging, and being crucified. He suffered at Gethsemane with _______ crying (Hebrews 5:7), and deep grief to the point of death, knowing that He would bear the punishment for the sins of all people, sins that He never committed. Is it any wonder that when the sky darkened and the earth shook, the Lord Jesus would recall the words of David and at that moment feel forsaken?

With these words, “Why have You forsaken Me?”, Jesus was quoting David in Psalm 22:1. Psalm 22 is the _______ Messianic of all the psalms. We ought to take some time to read the whole psalm. David, at the end of this Psalm in verses 25 to 31, praises the Lord and declares the Father’s righteousness. Jesus could see God’s _______ being done in the cross. Even though Jesus was in pain on the cross, and was cursed by hanging on a tree, and had the iniquities of us all laid upon him, He never ___________ entrusting Himself to the Father who judges righteously (1 Peter 2:23).

Larry Chouinard observed: “There seems little _________ that Jesus felt forsaken by God, and even though we cannot fathom all that it might have meant to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. Yet, his petition does not express hopelessness or utter despair, but rather a _______ in God’s ultimate vindication. This prayer highlights his extraordinary sense of intimacy with God (He says, “my God, my God”), and his confidence that God will break through the alienation that he now feels. Like the righteous sufferer in Psalm 22, Jesus can confidently say, ‘In you our fathers put their trust, they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed’ (Psalm 22:4–5).” While Jesus suffered until He died, His _______ that same day would be in Paradise! He also knew that!

John 19:26-27 says: “When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold, your _______!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your _______!’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his ______ household.” In keeping with the biblical teaching to honor one’s parents found in the Ten Commandments, Jesus provided a ______ for his mother, who was almost certainly widowed and probably in her late 40s or early 50s. She needed financial support and protection. He gave that responsibility probably to John.

John 19:28-30 says: “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to _______ the Scripture, said, ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His ________. And therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is ___________!’ And He bowed His head and gave up His ______.” The words, “After this,” refer to his ______ act which included of course provision for his mother. Then all matters were now “finished,” He completed that which he came to do prior to his death; all of those the Scriptures, including the thirst he was now experiencing, were being fulfilled and the time rapidly approached when he would yield up his spirit to the Father. Thirst is one of the severest _______ of crucifixion. For the “perfecting” of the Messiah by physical suffering. “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to __________ the author of their salvation through sufferings” (Hebrews 2:10).

The sour wine [or vinegar] (Mark 15:36) that the soldiers offered Jesus here was commonly used by soldiers to quench their thirst and it’s _______ from the “wine that was mixed with myrrh,” which was a sedative that they offered Jesus on the way to the cross in Mark 15:23. Jesus refused the sedative, but he drank this in order to quench his thirst and to speak. They used hyssop to reach up and put it on his lips. This liquid had a reviving effect and Jesus accepted it.
The final Scripture fulfillment before His death involves Jesus’ quenching his thirst with a bit of the wine vinegar. Although John does not specify the exact Old Testament passage he has in mind, we’re probably to understand Psalm 69:21, “They … gave me vinegar for my thirst.” Why this choice of beverage (probably better translated “vinegary wine”)? Was this a last ______ of cruelty by a heartless group of soldiers? Probably not. It’s possible, but more than likely the jar of vinegary wine was_______ to quench the thirst of the soldiers on guard, as they were simply acting out of duty or even as an act of compassion or respect toward Jesus.

Luke provides an additional _______ at the very last words of Jesus. Luke 23:45-46 says: “It was now about the ________ hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ______ hour, and because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the _________ was torn in two. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your ________ I commit my spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His _______.” This is no ordinary crucifixion of a criminal. This is the _________ event in the history of the world. Its significance is revealed by the darkness and the tearing of the veil of the temple from top to bottom. Matthew 27:51 adds that the earth shook and the rocks were split. It must have been terrifying; but Jesus confidently called out with a loud voice the words of Psalm 31:5, “Father into your hands I commit My spirit.” Jesus began and ended the cross with a ________.

Jesus died knowing that He would ______ again on the third day (Luke 9:22). He knew that He had accomplished the will of the Father. He knew that His _________ atoned for the sins of humanity. He knew His _______ would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. He knew He would rise from the dead in triumph and be ________ at God’s right hand. He knew that He would come again to ________ His own and take them home to heaven. Jesus willingly suffered, because He knew that His suffering and death wasn’t the ______ story!

Jesus was willing to ______ the cross and to suffer the shame because He knew what the cross would do for you and for me. He knew it would give us _______ of forgiveness and eternal life. He knew we could be ______ from the old man of sin and could be born again to a new life, delivered from sin and death. He loved us enough to suffer and to ________ us to Himself and to eternal life.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and you can believe He is the Christ, the Son of God. Because He is Lord, turn from sin and serve Him as your Lord and Savior. With faith, love, and repentance, confess Him and be baptized into Christ. When you’re baptized into Christ, you’ll receive what He died for; you’ll receive the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). Baptism unites us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. When you’re baptized into His death, you’re united with Him! You’re crucified with Him, buried with Him and raised with Him, freed from sin, and able to rise to walk in newness of life according to Romans 6:3-7. Won’t you ________ the Scriptures for yourself, and be ________ to His will?