

# Lessons From The Cross of Jesus

## Teaching Us To Do HIS Will

*“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”*  
(2 Corinthians 5:15)

On His last few hours on the cross our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ suffered the cruel pain to pay the prize for our sins. Even while He was hanged on the cross with all the great pain, He spoke His last words that carry to us great teaching and can tell what Jesus wants from us.

1) Forgiveness: *“Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing. And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”* (Luke 23:34) The cross of Jesus teaches us forgiveness. We need to forgive those who hurt us and harm us. One time Simon Peter asked the Lord, *“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?” Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you not seven times, but seventy seven times.”* Those who crucified Jesus they divided up His clothes; they were really in miserable situation that they thought to take Jesus’ clothes. In the same way those who hurt you or harm you they are in the same miserable condition of sin, and to forgive them is to have mercy on them because they don’t know what they are doing. The word of God admonish us the following: *“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the lord forgave you.”* (Colossians 3:13) We need to forgive others so that God would forgive us, *“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* (Matthew 6:14-15)

2) Compassion for the lost: *“One of the criminals, who hung there, hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserves. But this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you will come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”* (Luke 23: 39-43) Jesus had compassion on the lost souls; that criminal who was hanged on the cross, the Holy spirit revealed to him that Jesus is Lord and king and that is why he asked, *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”* And *“Jesus answered him, I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”* We should have the same love and compassion to the lost souls; we need to go to them and preach to them the gospel of Jesus and His death on the cross and His resurrection so might believe and be saved.

3) The sense of responsibility: *“Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Dear Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “here is your*

*mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”* (John 19:25-27) Jesus Christ is hundred percent God and He is hundred percent man. From the flesh part Mary is His mother, but from the Spirit Jesus is her Lord. This is what Mary said, *“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.”* (Luke 1:46-47) Therefore Jesus Christ called her woman. But when He delegated the responsibility of His mother to the beloved disciple He said to him, *“This is your mother,”* because the Bible teaches us to treat elder women as mothers, as a respect for them and for their services. We learn from what Jesus did on the cross toward His mother to care for our parents and our family. We should have a sense of responsibility towards them as the word of God says, *“If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* (1 Timothy 5:8)

4) Perseverance till the end: *“At the six hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “ Eloi, Eloi, Lama sabachthani?”* (Mark 15:33-34) Why Jesus said, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* When Jesus was on the cross God put on Him all the sins of the world, and in that agony Jesus was bearing as a man with full sensation of pain. God left Jesus alone to bear the sins of the whole world. *“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we become the righteousness of God.”* (2 Corinthians 5: 21) But even in this situation Jesus did not gave up, but He continued with the whole pain and suffering till the end. What we learn from that is the following: In our walk with God there are spring times, refreshing and joyful moments, but also there are difficult times and painful experiences God would allow us to pass through. In such difficult times you may think that God is not there or God is forsaking you; and this is what you feel when your prayers are not answered or when you pass into painful emergencies and God is not relieving you. But that is not true, God is still there beside you. What you need to do in those critical times is to follow what Jesus did, to persevere and till the end.

5) Work out to fulfil the Scripture: *“Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”* (John 19:28) The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“I am thirsty,”* because He came to fulfill the scripture as He said, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law of the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:17-20) The Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfill the will of GOD and to do the word of GOD as He said, *“Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”* (Psalm 40:7-8) We too must learn to obey God and His word and fulfill the scriptures in our lives in

doing His will.

The Lord Jesus Christ felt thirsty on the cross; He suffered as a human being with all the physical feeling of pain. He is hundred percent God, also He is hundred percent human. When He felt thirsty, although He is God, He humbled Himself and asked for a drink, *“Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:6-11) We learn from Jesus’ action on the cross is to be humble; when we need something we need to humble ourselves, we go and ask, and not to have pride or arrogance.

For what Jesus was thirsty when He said on the cross, *“I am thirsty,”*? In few occasions in the Bible Jesus showed His desire to eat or drink. One of them is on the last supper at the night of His betrayal, as we can read now, *“When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.’ After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’”* (Luke 22:14-18) Jesus wanted to eat the Passover and drink the fruit of the vine with His disciples before He suffered because He will not taste it until the Kingdom of God comes. *The spiritual meaning of the fruit of the vine means the righteousness of God that Jesus wants to see in the life of His disciples.* Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6)

Jesus is thirsty to see His disciples living their lives in holiness and righteousness for God. He is thirsty for people who have the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives, who are filled with love, joy, faithfulness, gentleness, patience and self-control.

*For what Jesus is hungry or thirsty and He likes to eat and drink?* One time the Lord Jesus Christ was sitting with a Samaritan woman and was preaching to her the word of God. *Meanwhile His disciples urged Him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But He said to them, ‘I have a food that you know nothing about.’ Then His disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought Him food?’ ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.’* (John 4:31-34) And this should be our food as well, to preach the word of God, and to reach the lost and to bring them to the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus is hungry and thirsty to see us doing God’s will and to finish His work by bringing new souls into His kingdom.

**6) Work out to be perfect:** *“When He had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”* (John 19:30) The

word, ***“It is finished.”*** denote the perfect work that Jesus fulfilled; all what is needed to be done. Jesus said, ***“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”*** (Revelation 22:13) No one before Jesus and no one is after Him. He is the living word of God. You cannot add to what He has done and you cannot subtract from what He constructed. ***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things on heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created for Him and by Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.”*** (Colossians 1:15-20) Jesus also said, ***“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*** (John 14:6) You cannot reach heaven and God the Father except through faith in Christ Jesus. He is the only way, ***“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.”*** (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

**7) Commit yourself to God:** *“It was now about sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When He had said this He breathed His last.”* (Luke 23: 44-46) Jesus committed His spirit into the hands of God, ***“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.”*** (1 Peter 3:18) Jesus died on the cross; His body died but His Spirit, the Spirit of God, was alive, ***“Through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water.”*** (1 Peter 3:19-20) Jesus is God who appeared in flesh, His body was put to death but He continued to live by the Spirit with God. He spent three days into the heart of the earth and on the third day He rose from the dead and He is now alive. This is His word, ***“I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*** (Revelation 1:18)

Jesus said to God, ***“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*** The Lord Jesus Christ entrusted Himself and His life to God the Father, ***“When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”*** (1 Peter 2:23-24) God judge justly; Jesus made no threat or tried to revenge; He did not retaliate but He trusted God to receive justice from Him. The same thing we can apply in our lives; we need to trust God when we face injustice from people who would take our rights. We ought to forgive them and release them into the hands of God and put the full matter under God’s control. ***“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath.”*** (Romans 12: 19 a) The word of God it tells us about Jesus, ***“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did***

*into open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before Her hearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)* Jesus when suffered He did not open His mouth. He did not retaliate, not because He is weak, but He had entrusted all the situation to God. There was power when Jesus kept silent, God work it out for Him. Therefore when you face injustice and people attacking you and you keep silent that does not mean you are weak. But you are strong because you are waiting for God to fight for you. Your silence means you had overcome the battle and trusted God to bring you the victory.

***“Many seek an audience with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that man gets justice.” (Proverbs 29: 26)*** The Lord’s servant will not quarrel, will not cry out and will not shout. Listen to what God had said about His chosen servant, the Lord Jesus Christ: ***“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear His voice in the streets.” (Matthew 12:18-21)*** God want those who serve Him do His work quietly; not involved in controversies, quarrels, arguments, revenge, or retaliation. God will not help if we do such things; His Spirit will not be there. He love to work with those who put their trust in Him, ***“The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.” (Nahum 1:7)***

***My dear and beloved:*** From what we learn from the above lessons we need to apply in our lives. Jesus did not live for Himself but for God and we ought to live not for ourselves but for Him who died on the cross and rose from the dead as we agree to pray.

***My prayer:*** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross to give me eternal life. Father humble me and help me to do your will in my life; to forgive others, to preach the good news to the lost, to care for my family and to persevere up to the end. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.