

# UNSELFISH TO HIS DEATH

By: James Eaves

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16 And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. 17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, 18 And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! 19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

-Mark 15:16-20-

**Thesis:** To emphasize the example of unselfishness that Jesus Christ had.

## Introduction:

- A) "**Then** said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
- 1) The word then connect this statement with the things that they had previously done to Him.
  - 2) Notice what they did:
    - a) Even before this He was scourged.
    - b) Placed a purple robe on Him. (would have hurt to take off when the blood would dry and stick to it)
    - c) Crown of thorns.
    - d) They hit Him with a reed on the crown of thorns.
    - e) They spit on Him and mocked Him.
  - 3) Then!!!!!!!!!!!!
- B) Unselfish – placing another persons needs before your own.
- C) We teach our children to be unselfish.
- 1) Sharing their toys and candy.
  - 2) Simple being kind.
- D) Christ was the greatest example of unselfishness.
- 1) He could have decided that is was to much to pay for such undeserving people.
  - 2) But instead He devotes His last words to those around Him.
  - 3) If it were on of us we would probably be complaining about our own welfare.
- E) Christ displays His unselfishness in many ways, but we will notice 3 specific ones today.
- 1) By talking to the thief. – Luke 23:42-43
  - 2) By taking care of His mother. – John 19:26-27
  - 3) By honoring a friend. – John 19:26-27.

## Discussion:

- I) **Christ Was Unselfish Toward The Thief.** – Luke 23:42-43 - And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

**A) While suffering on the cross Christ is faced with a request.**

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- 1) The thief asks Christ to remember him when He comes into His kingdom.
  - 2) Christ could have done several things:
    - a) Could have said, "I don't have time for you right now"
    - b) Can't you see that I am dying?
  - 3) But Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, said, "to day thou shalt be with me in paradise." – v43.
- B) Everyday of our lives we are faced with the opportunity to tell someone about the saving Gospel of Christ.**
- 1) When friends call, at the grocery store, at work, at school, at home.
  - 2) But we often find ourselves making excuses:
    - a) "Looks like it might rain, can't go door knocking today."
    - b) "I'm just not a good speaker"
    - c) "No one's going to listen to me anyway"
    - d) "What if they say no?"
    - e) And finally, "I'm just too busy."
  - 3) What if Christ would have...
    - a) Christ had part in Creation.
    - b) Christ brought the Gospel.
    - c) Christ redeemed man from sin.
    - d) One day He will come back again to take the saved to heaven with Him.
      - (1) What if He is too busy?
- C) We are to follow the example of Christ.** – Philippians 2:5 - Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
- 1) Paul also said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1Corinthians 11:1)
  - 2) Christ had an objective \_ Seek and Save the Lost\_ - Luke 19:10.
    - a) Unselfish objective. - Philippians 2:8 - And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
  - 3) And He has given us an objective. – Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
    - a) We must be unselfish in our objective.
    - b) We cannot just pick and choose who we talk to.
    - c) "teach all nations"
- II) Christ Was Unselfish Toward His Mother.** - John 19:26-27 - When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

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## **A) Throughout the ministry of Christ we don't read much about His relationship with His physical family.**

- 1) And yet some of His last words were to His mother.
  - a) Christ made sure that His mother would be taken care of.
  - b) He wasn't concerned with himself.
- 2) After all that He went through and was going through at that very moment, He still put others first.

## **B) For, probably about 18-20yrs., our parents bear the burden of raising us.**

- 1) But they don't look at it as a burden.
  - a) They wouldn't have it any other way.
  - b) They count it as a joy.
  - c) And that is exactly what the Bible tells them to do. - 1 Timothy 5:8 - But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
- 2) How many of us will accept the joy of taking care of them when they can't take care of themselves?
  - a) Will we think of it as a joy to be able to try to pay them back?
  - b) Paul told Timothy that we are also to take care of the elderly.
    - (1) 1 Timothy 5:16 - If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

## **C) The example left by Christ for us should be imprinted on our minds.**

- 1) When we don't follow the examples left by Christ we are in a sense saying that He died in vain.
  - a) If we refuse to listen to Him then we refuse the salvation that He gave His life for.
- 2) Dying on the cross and He made sure that His mother had someone to take care of her.

**III) Christ Was Unselfish By Honoring His Friend.** - John 19:26-27 - When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

## **A) Can you imagine being asked to take care of the physical mother of the Son of God?**

- 1) What a great honor!
- 2) This also shows that Christ forgave John for forsaking Him earlier. - Matthew 26:56 - But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.
  - a) All of the disciples had left Him.
  - b) And only John returned to the cross.
  - c) That shows John's love and dedication.
- 3) Christ could have used His last breathe to rebuke John for having left Him, but he didn't.
  - a) Still thinking of others first.

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b) He asks His faithful friend, who by the way goes on to write 5 books of the Bible, to take care of His mother.

c) What an honor!

**B) When Was the last time we honored our friends?** - Romans 12:10 - Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

1) Don't they deserve it?

a) Like the preacher told my wife during the ceremony:

b) "Anyone who can put up with James deserves to be congratulated."

2) But what about ...?

a) Our parents, children, spouses.

b) Teachers.

c) Elders – Paul said - 1 Timothy 5:17 - Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

d) GOD! "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord" – James 4:10

**C) Be sure to always give credit where credit is due!**

1) God called us into one body, and for that we should be thankful – Col 3:15.

2) Jesus Died for us and for that we should be thankful.

3) In our prayers, Maybe we should spend more time thanking God for answered prayers.

## **Conclusion:**

A) Christ Wasn't Selfish With His Last Few Minutes Of Life And We Can Follow His Example By:

a. Spreading the gospel.

b. Taking care of our parents and the elderly.

c. Honoring our Friends and God.

B) Some would have us to believe that we can't keep the Law of Christ and so we should just live our lives and not be concerned with eternity.

a. But John said that the commandments of Christ are not grievous. – 1John 5:3

b. That means We Can Keep His Law!

C) God has done so much for us and we ought to be thankful!

a. And He asks us to show our love and gratefulness by keeping His commands. – John 14:15

b. He asks that we: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, be Baptized, Remain Faithful.

D) Matthew & Mark emphasize FAITH in Christ, Luke emphasizes REPENTANCE, John emphasizes CONFESSING that Christ is the Son of God, the Acts of the Apostles emphasizes BAPTISM or CONVERSION, then we have 21 epistles that tell us how to remain FAITHFUL.

a. That ought to show us how important it is to remain faithful.

b. Then finally in Revelation John emphasizes VICTORY FOR CHRISTIANS.