

Matthew 27:45-50;

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46;

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? 47;

Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. 48;

And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. 49;

The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. 50;

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

1-The group of soldiers about the cross of Christ:

1-Their work of nailing the victims each to his cross had been finished and they were waiting for them to die when they were startled by the cry of Christ: Eli, Eli, lama sabachthania.

2-Becuse they did not fully understand, -the cry of Jesus divided them into two groups, namely;

1-There was one who sought to help while the others did nothing.

2-Because of his willingness to help, this one became a part of the remedy, while the others remained a part of the disease.

3-In our last lesson, and to explain their failure to help in time of need, two reasons or excuses were given, namely;

1-He was not calling on me for help, He was calling on some one by the name of Elijah. Therefore it was none of my business.

2-I heard the cry and knew the need to be desperate. But I had enough confidence in my fellows ^{to believe} that ~~some~~ one else would respond to the most urgent call.

1-So, we come now to consider the third reason that these soldier might have given...It is more compelling I think than any of the others.

1-Listen to it:

"You heard the cry," I repeat,
"why did you not help?"

2-Came the answer:

"I wanted to help but the situation seemed utterly hopeless."

3-There was so little that I could do:

"You see, Rome had arrested this man and sentenced him to death." "By this time the agonies of the cross had almost done their work so What could I do?"

4-Because I could not do everything, I did not do anything.

1-This same dismal consideration is especially prevelant today and threatens to lay benumbing and paralyzing hands on everyone of us.

2-Here we are met for worship:

1-While we are thus meeting we realize that after nineteen centuries of preaching;

1-Some good and much bad;

Far more than half
the world at this very moment is on fire.

2-In face of such wide spread tragedy the question comes ringing to us through the ages:

1-What can we do? What can anyone do?

2-It is possible that these soldiers did nothing because they were hopeless, even as you and I.

3-But there was one of these soldiers that had a more hopeful reading of things: In answer to the cry of the suffering Christ;

1-This soldier ran and got a sponge, and dipped it in his portion of sour wine, or vinegar, and put ti on a reed, and gave it to Jesus to drink.

2-This soldier,^{new} that one of the tortures of crucifixion was the burning thirst that such blood letting occasioned.

1-As I watch this soldier, my heart grows warm to him.

1-"Good work Elijah," I call to him.

2-At this he looks at me with surprise. Then understanding my mistake, he answers, "My name is not Elijah."

2-But it sounded to me as if he were calling Elijah:

1-"So it did to me," he replied, but for some reason Elijah did not come....But whatever the reason for his failure, I somehow felt that it was up to me to take his place.

3-At the close of the first world war each nation among the Allies found among their dead a battered body without a name.

1-Each nation erected a monument in honor of this nameless hero bearing this inscription, "To The Unknown Soldier."

2-The monument in Washington bears the following epitaph:

"Here Lies In Honored Glory, An American Soldier Known But To God!"

4-Surely this soldier who helped Jesus is vastly worth knowing, I am sorry therefore, that I do not know his name.

1-This is a bracing and healing story of one who did what he could.

5-I like this story because:

1-It puts us all on equal footing. The ordinary man has the same opportunity to do things for his Lord as the man of genius.

2-The thing that counts is; ^{Take it}
What we do with what is actually in our hands.

6-Jesus was once so thrilled by the gift of a certain widow that he made her immortal.

1-It was not because she told her friends how much she would give if she had a million.

2-It was because, though she only had two mites a fraction of a cent, she dared for love's sake to give that. Luke 21:1-4.

We often permit ourselves to tell how much we would give if we were only as rich as Croesus. This is to take a truth and make of it a benumbing opiate.

Minister 2 Cor. 4:11

Vessel 2 Cor. 4:7

Worker 2 Cor. 6:1

Temple 2 Cor. 6:16

Sons + Daughters
2 Cor. 6:18