

“Into Your Hands...”

(Series: CrossWords; Message Six)

Luke 23:44-46

A. *Remez* is when a rabbi utters a word or phrase from the Old Testament to make a point - not only from what he quotes - but from the context

B. This sixth *CrossWord* of Jesus is a “*remez*” from Psalm 31

“Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God” (Psalm 31:5)

THE POWERFUL PATHOS

A. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told his disciples, “*The Son of man is delivered into the hands of sinners! Rise! Let’s go! Here comes my betrayer*”

1. For the last fifteen hours, Jesus has been in the “hands” of sinners
2. The end is near; death will provide a welcome relief
3. Jesus didn't die at the “hands” of sinners - he chose to die

B. Jesus didn't sigh; Jesus called out in a loud voice!

1. These are words of pathos and power; tears and triumph
2. Only when we see both can we understand how the death of Jesus is THE event in which God shared the complete misery of our human existence and redeemed it for his glory!
3. In saying he “*commits his spirit into the hands of the Father*” Jesus is entrusting his whole life to his Father

THE CHILD’S PRAYER

A. There is something more about this word from the cross...

1. Every Hebrew child was taught to pray the words from Psalm 31

*“Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I awake; I pray the Lord my soul to take”*

2. Notice the similarities between this prayer and Jesus’ last prayer...

“Teach them to number their days, that they may gain a heart of wisdom”
(cf. Psalm 90)

B. Sleeping is a metaphor for trust...

1. When we’re sleeping, we’re defenseless; we surrender control of everything

2. Sleeping is also a metaphor for death; yet, we go to sleep every night with the full expectation of waking up the next morning...

- a. Do you have trust issues? Can you pray this prayer?
- b. Do you see the way the Son trusts - his Father?

THE WHOLE PICTURE

A. There is something infinitely moving in this picture - and equally instructive

1. This prayer had stayed with Jesus through his entire life and ministry
2. This prayer was a testament to the training of his mother and his trust in his Father

B. In the confusion of our lives, the hand of God is extended for us to grasp

1. If there is anything guaranteed in life and death, it is this: that God’s hand is always there and will always be there
2. Once you grasp God’s hand, he will never let you go

C. This *CrossWord* is the secret of victorious living

1. This word defines a spirit of anticipation and expectancy
2. Jesus now offers a childlike prayer:

“Now, Father, deliver me from my enemies! Don’t let me be put to shame!” (31:17)

3. The Father will answer his Son’s prayer

D. What does this mean for us today?

“Love the Lord, you saints! The Lord preserves the faithful. Be strong, take courage, all you who hope in the Lord. I obeyed the Father to the point of death, and he delivered me. He will also deliver you!” (Psalm 31:23-24)

1. If we cry out, “*Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me and deliver me, O Lord, I have done all I can,*” he will deliver
2. And now you know the whole story...

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