

Saint Timothy Lutheran – Edmonds, WA

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 – Lent VI

Rev. Craig A. Patterson (Based upon the sermon
Series “Words Of Life From The Cross,” CPH, 2010.)

“The Dying Word”

(Text: Luke 23: 46)

Context: As physician Luke describes the scene of Jesus hanging and dying on the cross of Calvary, he notes here that “it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, the sun being obscured; and the veil of the Temple was torn in two. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice said, “FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” These are the same words of David from Psalm 31:5, a Messianic psalm that described, hundreds of years before Jesus walked the earth, the lament that the Savior-Messiah would go through for all sinners.

I. The Old Adam In Us, With Its Self-Absorbed And Self-Oriented Ways, Resists This Surrender.

- A. People view death as the ultimate failure.
 - 1. People often feel guilty about becoming ill, weak, or even facing death.
- B. People view circumstances in which one does not have total control as circumstances to avoid at all costs.
 - 1. Like a small child that throws a temper tantrum because it cannot have its way (control), we resist surrender and any notion that we cannot be in the driver’s seat.
 - 2. We want it all (all of life) on our own terms.
- C. People pride themselves in their ability to control things (other people and circumstances).
 - 1. We view strong and in-control-type of people as the ones to be admired and emulated.
 - 2. We seek after the money, power, and status that will enable us to control our circumstances. Surrender is not in our thinking.
 - 3. We exclude, in our unbelief or our doubt, God from the picture and plan our a life that depends solely on ourselves.
 - a. We forget what the Bible says, “In Him” (in God) “we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).
 - b. The truth is that we do not have another heart beat but that it is given to us by God.
- D. In our sinful and sin-darkened thinking we continue to plan for and believe that we can and must control everything. Surrender is not in or vocabulary.

II. For Jesus, This Moment Of Surrender Was A Moment Of Victory.

- A. It was for this purpose that Jesus came.
 - 1. At the conclusion of carrying out the bitter and painful work of securing mankind’s salvation, the Savior not committed Himself into the loving hands of His Father.
 - 2. At the conclusion of His salvation mission, the Savior of the world was not going back home.
- B. It was with a loud shout that Jesus proclaimed, “It is finished!” followed by “Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.”
 - 1. Summoning all the strength that He has left in order for the people around Him to hear, Jesus victoriously shouted these words for the benefit of the people.
- C. Jesus was returning to a loving Father with Whom He had planned this salvation mission in the first place.
 - 1. The love and the goodness of His Father, into Whose arms He now commended Himself, was never in question.
 - 2. Jesus knows the Father, His nature, His love, His kindness, His goodness, fully.
 - 3. Jesus trusts Himself to the Father entirely and without reservation.
- D. Jesus overcomes death by dying.
- E. We, too, can commend our spirits, at our moment of death, to a loving and good God.
- F. We, too, have overcome death in the death of Jesus. “O death where is your victory? O death where is your sting?” (I Cor. 15:55). Jesus has won the victory!