

“Dying with Jesus”

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus asks the question that, when He comes, will He find faith on the earth? **Luke 18:8** I believe a crisis of faith often occurs in dying and will also occur just before the 2nd coming of Jesus.
- B. **1 Peter 2:21** says that Jesus has left us an example that we should follow in His steps. Could it be that Jesus has shown us how to die?

II. Jesus shows us the three stages that a Christian often must go through in the process of dying.

A. Jesus in Gethsemane.

1. Jesus predicted that He would be dead for 3 days and 3 nights. **Matthew 12:40**
2. Jesus begins to die in Gethsemane as He agonizes over whether He should submit to the death on the cross. **Matthew 26:38-44**
3. The decision to be crucified with Christ and submit our will entirely to Him is a vital experience we need to have had before we start the physical dying process. **Galatians 2:20**

B. Jesus on the Cross.

1. Jesus is tempted to doubt and asks God why He has been forsaken. **Matthew 27:46&50**
Instead of relying on His feelings, I believe that Jesus focused on the promises like **Psalms 16:10&11**, **Psalms 22:24**, and **Isaiah 53:10&11**.
2. When we are near death and Satan tells us that our sins are not forgiven and we feel that we are lost, we need to focus on Scripture and not our feelings.

- a. **Romans 6:1-5** speaks of being buried with Jesus by baptism into death and experiencing the same resurrection that Jesus had.
- b. **1 John 1:7-2:2** speaks of admitting that we are sinners so that we can confess our sins, be forgiven, and be cleansed.
Christ’s blood provides the propitiation/ransom that is necessary for us to be bought back from sin.
- c. **Romans 8:28-34** speaks of the call of God that, if we answer, God will set us apart unto Himself, conform us into the image of Jesus, justify us, and finally glorify us.
Neither God nor Jesus condemns us. God justifies us and Jesus makes intercession for us.

A. Jesus Breathes His Last.

1. In **Luke 23:46** Jesus commends or gives His spirit or breath into His Father’s hands.
2. In **Mark 4:35-40** the faith of Jesus allowed him to rest while the boat was sinking. Afterwards He asked His disciples why they had no faith.
3. Resting in the Father’s Love:
“It was faith—faith in God’s love and care—that Jesus rested ... As Jesus rested by faith in the Father’s care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour. If the disciples had trusted in Him, they would have been kept in peace. Their fear in the time of danger revealed their unbelief. In their efforts to save themselves, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in despair of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could help them.”

The Desire of Ages, Page 336