

## **Six Hours That Changed the World**

**By Kent Heaton**

“Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:7-9).

This morning we prepared ourselves to worship Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago He prepared Himself to worship His Father.

We were in the comfort of our homes. Jesus was agonizing in grief in a garden.

We enjoyed a breakfast meal. Jesus would forgo eating.

Our day is planned with joy. His day was planned for horror.

We had a night's rest. He would have a restless sleep on Wednesday and find no sleep before death on Friday.

No one will betray us today. Judas betrayed Jesus.

No one will come to arrest us. Jesus was bound with chains and dragged away.

We will assemble with people who care about us. A huge mob will descend on Jesus to kill him.

We will sit for an hour in the comfort of a building. Jesus would be dragged from place to place into mock courts of shame.

We will fret about the sermon going to long. Jesus will be beaten, spit on, slapped, scorned, humiliated, taunted and mocked.

Our day will be filled with naps, watching a movie or shopping. Roman soldiers will tie Jesus to a post and beat him with a whip shredding His back in ribbons of bleeding flesh.

We may decide not to attend an evening service this day. Jesus would be nailed to a cross.

Our day will be over quickly with an hour of church this morning and maybe an hour of church tonight. Plans will fill our minds as we think of what we want to do this week. Children will laugh, couples will enjoy a meal together, recreation will fill the hours of our day and life will be remembered as good.

Jesus will suffer for six hours on the cross. His body will writhe in agony for six hours. The back scourged earlier will scrape against the blood covered cross for six hours. He will cry out to His Father. He show love to His mother. His forgiveness will be uttered to the rabble below Him. He will endure a burning thirst. A fellow prisoner will receive grace. His mission will be finished. He will die.

Six hours. The world was created in six days. Jesus suffered for six hours to redeem the world from sin. God rested on the seventh day. Jesus rested in the seventh hour. His work was finished. Thank God for those horrible six hours that Jesus suffered for me. As I worship may I never forget the final six hours of the life of Jesus Christ. Thank you Lord.

“In the Cross and Him who hung upon it, all things meet; all things subserve it, all things need it, it is their center and interpretation. For He was lifted up on it, that He might draw all men and all things to Him.” (John Henry Newman, Parochial and Plain Sermons, VIII, 1843)

### **Standing Still and Drifting Away**

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14).

Whether or not you reach your chosen destination depends on two things: 1) moving forward; 2) keeping on the right path. You cannot stand still on the right path. Neither will it avail to be the swiftest, brightest dog on the wrong race track! The entire book of Hebrews warns that standing still leads to drifting away (Hebrews 2:1). Obviously, if you are on the broad way, it doesn't matter how fast or efficiently you are working, you are headed toward destruction. (Oscar C. Miles)

### **Forgetting the Purpose**

“Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number” (Jer. 2:32).

Several years ago, the London Transit Authority had a problem. Buses were going right past passengers who were waiting at designated places to be picked up. They were at the bus stops, and the buses were sailing right past them. The London Transit Authority released a statement to explain their actions. The statement said it was impossible for them to maintain schedules if they always had to stop and pick up passengers!

We often forget our purpose as Christians by forgetting the God whom we are endeavoring to serve. The London Transit Authority could have easily maintained schedules if they picked up no passengers at all. However, they would have destroyed their very purpose for existence. Let us not do the same.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

--A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

--My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me. (Winston Churchill)

--The secret to having a good marriage is to understand that marriage must be total, it must be permanent, and it must be equal.

--What counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility.

--More marriages might survive if the partners realized that sometimes the better often comes after the worse.

--Newlyweds become oldyweds, and oldyweds are the reasons that families survive and succeed.

--Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate.

### **Women Who Helped**

We turn the sacred pages,  
That we might in our search,  
Learn how the women labored  
In the early Church.

Pricilla served as teacher of  
The Gospel long ago;  
Kind Dorcas helped the widows,  
And did their sorrows know.

Cenchrea's Phoebe served the Lord  
In the Church located there;

While Mary opened up her house,  
That all might be in prayer.

As Lydia sold the purple  
In the busy mart,  
She told of Christ the Savior,  
Who had opened wide her heart.

To Timothy, a loving son,  
Good Eunice did impart  
The faith her mother Lois  
Had instilled within her heart.

And other women labored  
In the Gospel work with Paul,  
To keep the faith once given,  
To never let it fall.

All honor to those women,  
Who did such noble work;  
Who faced each duty, as it came,  
And never tried to shirk.  
(Author Unknown)