

Saturday: April 11th

WITH A GREAT CRY

Matthew 27:50

Centering Thought

“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud Voice, He gave up His spirit.”

Thoughts to Consider

When the spear was thrust into Jesus side to prove He had already died, what gushed out of His chest cavity was "blood and water." Some scholars have proposed this proves that He died of a broken heart. Spear thrust or not, knowing His compassion and His heart-felt desire that none should ever perish, what else would have taken Him as it did? He was carrying out the Father's will and at the same time dying for all humankind. Would not His heart break from such a load? He was taking our sin into His own body and paying for it on that tree. Of course it broke. How could it have been otherwise?

Many years ago a film called *The Clown* told of His life and death in a silent portrayal with Jesus in the role of *The Clown*. He went about doing good, healing people and meeting real needs. But toward the end, the religious leaders of His day started pulling His strings as those of a marionette and after violent actions that jerked and pushed Him around, He finally went limp as if on a Cross, and died. But just as the actions became more and more violent, He lifted His head toward the sky and let out a blood-curdling cry that echoed down the world's valleys and peaks and echoed on and on as if to reach us wherever we were. Not a word was spoken throughout the film, other than that cry. It was all we needed to hear. The message was there.

We still hear that cry. It is the cry of agony we will never fathom. It is the agony of One willing to die for another. It is the agony of God's own heart. Don't let the agony of your own cry keep you from hearing His. His is the agony of the cries of all humankind.

Prayer

Lord, as our sin that put Him there. Why would You want to redeem us after what we have done to You and to Him? Yet Your cry is not against us but is for us. All our cries are swallowed up in Him. You are crying for us so we would never have to cry the cry of the lost. Thank You for a love that would not let us go. In the strong Name of Jesus. Amen.