

At some point in the procedure a society of ladies, in their ministry to the dying, offered him drugged wine to lessen the pain and Jesus, no doubt gratefully, declined. Jesus had some things to say from the cross so He wanted a clear mind. Also, there are no tranquilizers in hell and He who went through this hell for us would not lessen His pain.

The deed was done, and Jesus was left to the pain, the shame, the insults, the flies, the burning thirst and the mercy of death, which sometimes wouldn't come for days, although most victims died in about six hours.

THE PLACE

The exact location is uncertain. All we are told is that it was "near the city". A little hill about a mile NW of the Temple, called "Gordon's Calvary", near a Jewish cemetery, is most likely the right spot.

I WENT THERE IN 1975

I have been there. The tiny spot sits now inside the walls and looks like a small vacant lot beside a busy street, where thousands of cars and people pass by daily with no thought of where they are. One good thing is that on top there is a Muslim cemetery. It is good because no one will ever dare move it; and if they could, they would build a Calvary Hilton or a McDonalds there.

PILATE DIDN'T GO THERE

People in the OT who persisted in wrongdoing, were sent "outside the camp or gate". We see this in the final chapter of the Bible, where Jesus' last words, are,

"Let him who is filthy be filthy still. / Let him who is holy continue to be holy. / Blessed are those who *wash their robes* /and may go through the gates into the city. But outside are the dogs (street dogs who ate garbage), those who are sexually immoral / murderers; etc."

The brutal, ugly death of Jesus at our hands shows us the need of forgiveness. Sins that live in us helped kill Him. It also shows us the cost of forgiveness. Suffering and death came into the earth when sin came in (Genesis 3). That is why Jesus had to suffer and die. Now I ask you, if God so punishes sin on this side of the graveyard, what makes us think He will not punish it on the other side? If we do not come to Christ and let Him take our punishment, we will have to endure it after death.

Pilate, unrepentant, is a picture of all those who turn away from Christ and throw away their chance for forgiveness and heaven. To insult the Jews, he wrote on the sign carried and nailed, that Jesus was the king of the Jews. When asked to change it to "He claimed" this, Pilate said, ***"What I have written, I have written."*** "This is true of every human being. We write our record, face each deed, done and NOT done, at the Judgment and receive our final destiny.

I WENT THERE IN 1959

I grew up idolizing Hank Williams, the amazing man who wrote a song still being sung today, "I Saw the Light". When he hit rock bottom because of alcohol, Minnie Pearl, a devout Christian, said, "Hank, why don't you look to the light you wrote about?" "That's just it" Hank replied, "There ain't no light." [His wife said He accepted Jesus before he died.]

When I responded to the light and gave Jesus my sins to forgive (faith) and my life to change and control (repentance) the burdens of my heart rolled away. First was the burden of *guilt and fear*. I knew I was heaven bound and not hell bound. There was the burden of *shame* over doing things I did not like about myself. And there was the burden of having *no purpose* for my life. My life was in God's hands and I knew He was working out a plan for me. (I never dreamed He would call me to preach)