

# With A Loud Voice

## Station 7

**Mark 15:34 (ESV)** 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Luke 23:46 (ESV)** 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

**John 19:30 (ESV)** 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Matt. 27:54 (ESV)** 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

He was probably familiar and unaffected by witnessing the suffering of three men being crucified that day. A centurion was an experienced soldier, a leader and a professional. Who knows how many crucifixions he had presided over? While it was cruel, it was not unusual. It was a spectacle meant to deter the local population from stepping out of line. Tied or nailed to a cross, the victim's bodyweight would slowly pull their shoulders out of joint and as they slumped they would grow stiff and their lungs would fill with fluid. There was a choice between dropping to avoid the pain of being hung up, or to pulling up in order to gulp a breath or two of air. People could last days pushing their torn up backs against a rough beam until they became too tired to breathe, lost too much blood or died from exposure.

There is no way that someone hanging on a cross for hours, lungs filling with fluid, brutally whipped, and beaten could have possibly cried with a loud voice, let alone to do so three times. A centurion would know this well. Jesus in His final words showed that His death did not make Him a victim; He was the willing

Lamb of God, who laid down His life by choice. He could have stepped down off the cross at any moment, yet He remained there and gave up His life to finish fulfilling the law and to completely take the punishment for every wrong ever done, past, present and future. Three days later He would also conquer death.

**Isa. 53:5 (NLT)** 5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

Jesus did what we could not. He carried a burden we could not. He did it so that anyone who called on His name would never have to carry the burden of breaking God's commands and paying the penalty, which is death. In Pilgrim's Progress, Christian has a burden on his back during his journey, but it falls off as he kneels at the cross a picture of what happens when we surrender our lives over to Jesus.

### AS YOU GO FROM HERE:

Take some time to hold out your arms with your palms up and imagine you are carrying a heavy load. Imagine that load is your sins, your mistakes, and every wrong thing you have ever done and ever will do.

Remember that God has offered you forgiveness. Drop what you are carrying and thank Jesus for dying in your place.

We all must remember that we are forgiven and therefore free because Jesus has already paid the price for our burdens. If this was your first time surrendering your burdens and your life to Jesus, please contact the church you are visiting this Easter season.

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