Hill of Three Crosses

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HILL OF THREE Crosses

I. Around Jerusalem there are four hills, famous in the acts of God.

A. Mt. of Olives--East.
   1. Mile long ridge of rounded limestone.
      Parallels eastern elevation of Jerusalem.
   2. Kidron Valley separates it from city.
   3. Mt. on east side (Ezek. 11:23) a sabbath days journey (Acts 1:12).
   4. Northern most ridge 2723'--highest.
   5. From ridge see Jerusalem.
      Ps. 122:3 "Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together.
      Ps. 118:22 "Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together."
   6. Gethsemane at lower reaches.
   8. But this is not our hill today.

B. Zion and Moriah--South.
   1. Zion a rocky fortress that gave Jerusalem her name.
      a. Here David's palace, burial, later site of Solomon's temple.
      b. Thus the "holy hill" Ps. 2:6, "habitation of the Lord" Ps. 9:11
   2. Moriah--also south.
      a. Here was bronze altar of burnt offerings, II Chron. 4:1.
      b. Abraham came to Moriah, Gen. 22.
      c. But these are not our mts.

C. Calvary.
   1. Mentioned only once (Lu. 23:33), its exact location unknown.
   2. Evidently an elevation (Mk. 15:40), means
skull, near highway (Matt. 27:39), without gate (Heb. 13:12).
3. It was north. This is our hill.

II. On Calvary stood 3 crosses.
A. Remember this was not circumstances.
   1. It was the plan of God.
   2. It was eternal in God's heart.
   3. It's the division between: truth and error, light and darkness, good and evil.
   4. Don't loose sight of the other two crosses in seeing the central one. They caused it.
B. One was the cross of rebellion.
   Luke 23:39 "If thou be the Christ, save thyself!"
   1. First word for other crosses and its the thief in rebellion.
   2. He shows bitterness, hatred, doubt.
   3. He's impetitive. He lived as a thief-- die as one! Rev 17:9 "The heart deceived... desperately wicked.
   4. His one regret-- he was caught.
   5. Heart of gall spitting out poison.
   6. Don't we have his kind today?
      a. Rejector of God.
      c. Why such a rebel?
   7. He dies-- last breath a curse.
      a. Do we take damnation as our choice?
      b. Why when way of escape open?
C. One was cross of repentance.
   Luke 23:42 "Lord Jesus, remember me when thou shalt enter into thy kingdom."
   1. He rebuked the other one. Said we deserve-- Him "nothing amiss". Believed he had a kingdom of power in it.
   2. Jesus said
   3. Note the contrast of the two crosses.
4. Repentance shows no bitterness, no questions asked, no demands made, only ask to be remembered. Blessing immediate, power when dying.

5. Repent means to change way of thinking—try to see God's way. Center, regarded him as chief.


D. For the 3rd cross is redemption. Malefactor.

1. We will never fully see how.

2. Christ came to break chain of sin.
   a. See illustration on boss.
   b. Toward it—ed converged; from it all flowed.

3. Jesus became sin for us.

4. He is your answer.

III. You see 3 crosses.
   A. One died in sin.
   B. One died to sin.
   C. One died for sin.

   1. There is no other way but the cross.

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Some say Zion emplaces 24 Temple Hill, Moriah & Ag.
Three men shared death
upon a hill;
But only one man died.
The other two, a thief
and God Himself,
Made rendezvous.

Three crosses
still are borne
up Calvary's hill,
Where sin still rears them
high.
Upon the one
sag broken men
Who, cursing, die.
Upon the other
hangs a thief,
Or those who, penitent
as he,
Still find the Christ
beside them
on the tree.

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