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Hill of Three Crosses

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HILL OF THREE CROSSES

1. 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 day 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. 119:150 "Jerusalem is the house of the Lord.
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 lose 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 and thy father. First word for other crosses and its the thief in rebellion.
2. He shows bitterness, hatred, doubt.
3. He's impetuous. He lived as a thief—die as one! Nov 17:9 "The heart deceitful... 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. Rejeter 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 comest in 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
   Lu.23:44 "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."
3. Note the contrast of the two crosses.
4. Repentance shows no bitterness, no questions asked, no demands made, only ask to be remembered!

5. Repent means to change way of thinking---try to see God’s way.

6. Can you do this today?

D. For the 3rd cross is redemption.

1. We will never fully see how.

2. Christ came to break chain of sin.
   a. See illustration on boss.

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.

John S. Jones - Bapt 10/11/62
Dane Plummer - Restored

Kinston NC. 2/19/63
Bethany (Mt. Min.) 4/19/63
16th St. (Abilene) 10/31/62
Caribou, Maine 6/28/63
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College St. (Lebanon) 8/14/63
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Millard Prevost - Bapt.
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Debbie Gilliam - Bapt.
Debbie Roberts - Bapt.
Isaiah 7/8/64
Marysville Tenn. 5/64
Marevneen Mcllwas, Tenn 10/2/64
Zion
Moriah

Some say Zion embraces 24 Temple Hill, Moriah & All
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.

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY