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## Hill of Three Crosses

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# HILL OF THREE CROSSES

Luke 23:39-46

*Termination of 2  
table land*

I. Around Jerusalem there are four hills, famous in the acts of God. *18 mi. to Jordan*

A. Mt. of Olives--East. *1/2 to sea*

*2 1/2 mi N to S  
1 1/2 E-W*

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. *is compact together*

Ps. 122:3 "Jerusalem is builded as a city th

6. Gethsemane at lower reaches. *some new house Jesus to Mt.*

7. Here on Mt. Jesus prayed (John 7:58; 8:1),

*Mt 17:33*  
lamented over city (Matt. 24+25), rode borrowed colt (Matt. 21:1-12) through golden gate, later here assended.

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. Evidentially 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 impentitive. He lived as a thief-- die as one! *Rev 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. Rejector of God.
  - b. What happened? Parents fail, broken home, improper example? *So near - yet lost.*
  - 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? *As the only one on earth who believed in Christ's lordship.*

C. One was cross of repentance.

Luke 23:42 "Lord Jesus, remember me when thou comest"

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.

At 1st he said Matt 27:39 "If thou be the Christ, save thyself"

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*

6. Can you do this today? *him as chief*

D. For the 3rd cross is redemption. *metaphor*

1. We will never fully see how. *get center of*

2. Christ came to break chain of sin. *history*

a. See illustration on boss. *Toward it - all*

3. Jesus became sin for us. *converged; from it*

4. He is your answer. *all flawed.*

III. You see 3 crosses.

A. One died in sin. *6th & 2nd h. Ark 10/7/64*

B. One died to sin. *Eastview 10/29/64*

C. One died for sin.

1. There is no other way but the cross.

*western 10/10/62*  
**John S. Jones - Bapt 10/10/62**

*Here Phunice - Restard*

Kinston N.C. 2/19/63

Bethany (M. Min.) 4/9/63

16th & Vine (Abilene) 10/31/62

Caribou, Maine 6/28/63

Jackson Park 7/24/63

College St. (Sebanon) 8/14/63

Jax Fl 8/30/63 (Sandosa)

West End - St. Louis 4/29/64

Millard Prewitt - Bapt.

Betty Conce - Bapt.

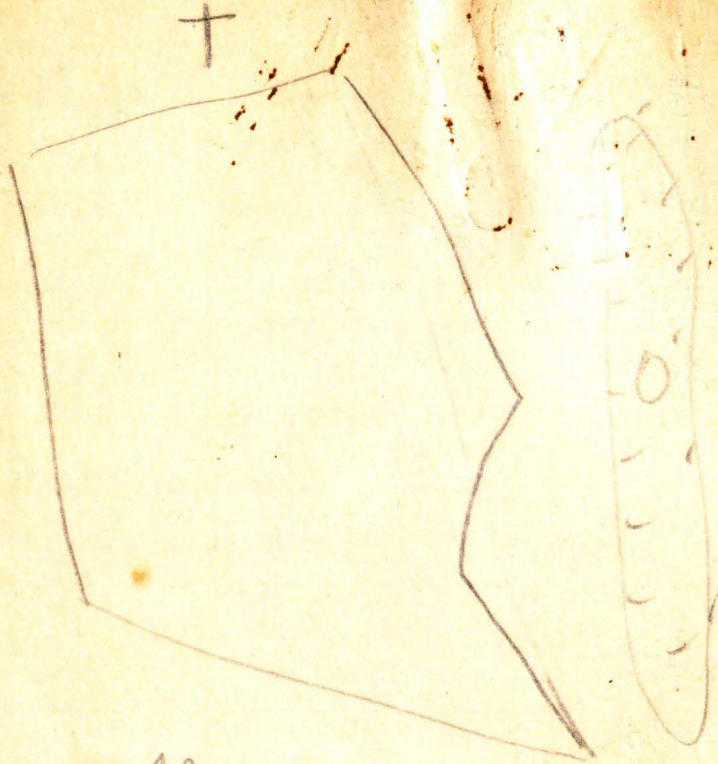
Draymere (Columbia) 6/26/64

Debbie William - Bapt.

Debbie Roberts - Bapt.

Isabel 8/8/64  
Maryville, Tenn. 5/04

Judith Mills, Tenn 10/2/64



11  
Zion.

11  
Moriah

Some say Zion encompasses all Temple Hill, Moriah & A.H.

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