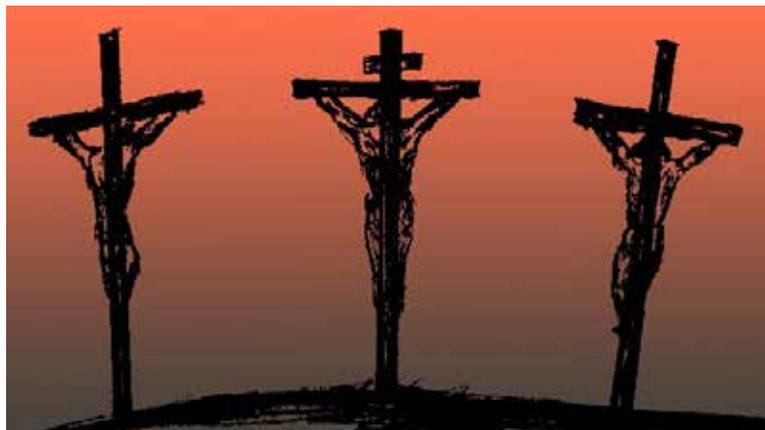


*"But **He Was Wounded For Our Transgressions:** He was bruised for our iniquities: the Chastisement of our Peace was upon Him; and with His Stripes we are healed." **Isaiah 53:5 KJV***



They came under the cover of darkness with a band of men, while He Prayed, to unlawfully seize our Saviour. *"When Jesus Had Spoken These Words, He Went Forth with His Disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which He Entered, and His Disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes Resorted thither with His Disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons."* He was betrayed to them with the kiss of a friend. *"Cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. And he that betrayed Him had given them a token, saying, 'Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He; take Him, and lead Him away safely.' And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to Him, and saith, 'Master, master;' and kissed Him. Jesus Said unto him, 'Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?' And they laid their hands on Him, and took Him."* The name of "Judas" will forever live in infamy as the "Betrayer." Are we any less guilty? We give all the outward appearances of being His friends, but when it comes time to stand up and be counted we are nowhere to be found. Worse yet, we are even found warming ourselves at the enemy's fire, while our Saviour's Name is being drug through the mud of slanderous opposition. *"And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, 'This man was also with Him.' And he denied Him, saying, 'Woman, I know Him not.'" It's not that God can't defend Himself. He could have descended on Calvary with a host of angels, and utterly annihilated mankind. Christ was there, because He Loved and wanted to rescue the souls of men from eternal damnation. "Therefore Doth My Father Love Me, Because I Lay Down My Life, that I Might Take It Again. No man taketh it from me, but I Lay It Down of Myself. I Have Power to Lay It Down, and I Have Power to Take It Again. This Commandment Have I Received of My Father."* I weep to think of the anguish and pain He endured for Love. *"We love Him, because He First Loved us."*

Father, forgive them! Thus did He pray,
E'en while His lifeblood flowed fast away;
Praying for sinners while in such woe –
No one but Jesus, ever loved so! –Avis M. Christiansen

What could ever repay such a debt? His Gracious Generosity Is Unbounded. His Love Is Fathomless! His Wrath Unstoppable! Will the Father Leave unpunished the scorners of such A Gift? He Has Promised infinite pleasure to those who accept His Offer of Salvation. Why do Christians let doubt and sin rob them of Sweet Fellowship? We no longer need fear *"The Pit,"* but we walk in dreary solitude because we lack the faith to grasp the Proffered Hand of Deliverance. We cry out, "Lord, save me!" But we fail to look up for the Saviour who is always there, ready and able to save. How do I grasp His Hand? *"By taking heed thereto, according to Thy Word."* I must read the Word of God, obey it, and *"meditate therein day and night."* It's the answer to all our problems, but who really avails themselves of it? We anguish over minutia while neglecting the Prepared Solution. Christ Has Already Born the burden, let go of it. Get a taste of Bliss, now. Trust Him!

"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I Will Give you Rest. Take My Yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I Am Meek and Lowly in Heart: and ye shall find Rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29 KJV