

Day 06 – *January 18*

Les Markham

Entrusted To the Father

Key Verse: Luke 23:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:46 NIV

Come with me to a place just outside the city walls of Jerusalem, to a place called Golgotha – “the place of the skull”. (It would later get the name “Calvary” from the Latin word for skull “calvaria”). It’s early afternoon but there is an eerie darkness over the land. It’s almost as if the sun is embarrassed or ashamed to behold the event unfolding in front of us.

The scene before us reveals three men suspended upon Roman crosses; it’s the one in the middle that commands our attention. He is identified as a political criminal, but everyone knows that it’s really a religious offence that has nailed Him to that wood. The underlying charge is blasphemy – He claims that He came from God. While the rulers mock Him, one of the thieves hanging there believes that His claim is true – He really is the Son of God.

But wait, He is saying something again. He has already made several significant statements from this tool of torture, but now He is calling out in a loud voice “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”. These are His last words before He breathes His last breath. We often, and rightly so, assign special significance to a person’s last words so what do these words from Jesus (for that is His Name) mean?

Earlier on the cross, Jesus felt, for the first time in His life, spiritually alone, abandoned by His Father, because the sins of the world had been

placed upon Him (Isaiah 53: 4–6, II Corinthians 5: 21) and God is unable to look upon sin; but now Jesus is assured again of His Father’s faithfulness and He is entrusting His soul into the hands of His loving Father. Luke 23:46 is a beautiful expression of trust quoted from Psalm 31:5.

The lesson for us today is that we can trust the same Father that Jesus trusted in His hour of greatest need. God the Father was compelled to temporarily abandon His Son; but He will never abandon us (Hebrews 13:5-6), and if we call upon Him – He is always there for us. We don’t have to walk this journey alone or carry these loads by ourselves, we can commit everything we have and everything we are into the hands of our faithful heavenly Father. In our season of testing, sorrow, temptation or need we can “Cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us” (I Peter 5:7).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Can you remember a situation where God came through for you. Have you thanked Him? Are you anxious about something that you need to trust God for? Can you entrust that need to God right now?

Is there any area of your life that you have not surrendered to God, or anything you have that you have not committed to His care?

PRAYER:

Father, I commit myself to you. May I rely upon your care for everything. In my hour of need, I know you will supply all that is needed. I also pray for those around me who may be in need. Use me to encourage others and point them to you.