Sermon from the Cross

Wylie United Methodist Church Pastor Jeff Hatcher – April 17, 2011 (Palm Sunday)

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus spoke...

1. WORDS OF FORGIVENESS.

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Jesus spoke...

2. WORDS OF <u>COMFORT</u>.

"Dear woman, behold your son." "Son, behold your mother." John 19:26-27

Jesus spoke...

3. WORDS OF MERCY.

"Today, you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43

Jesus spoke...

4. WORDS OF PHYSICAL BROKENNESS.

"I am thirsty." John 19:28

Jesus spoke...

5. WORDS OF SPIRITUAL SEPARATION.

"My God, My God why have you for saken me?" Mark 15:34

<u>2 Corinthians 5:21</u> <u>God made him who had no sin to be sin</u> for us, so that in him we might become the <u>righteousness of</u> <u>God</u>.

<u>1 Peter 2:24</u> <u>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree</u>, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed</u>.

Jesus spoke...

6. WORDS OF ETERNAL <u>VICTORY</u>.

"It is finished." John 19:30

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! <u>He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ</u>.

Jesus spoke...

7. WORDS OF ULTIMATE FAITH.

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

His <u>task completed</u>, Jesus died in <u>complete obedience and</u> <u>trust</u> in the Father.

CONCLUSION:

Christ has given us the perfect example of a perfect heart.

Now the question is, how do we respond to Jesus?

Philippians 2:5-9

5 Your attitude should be <u>the same as that of Christ Jesus</u>: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but <u>made himself nothing</u>, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, <u>he</u> <u>humbled himself</u> and became obedient to death-even death on a cross! 9 Therefore <u>God exalted him</u> to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...

God is calling us to have the heart of Christ.