



Stations of the Cross

A Temcat study: 2001

"It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love, and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Saviour. If we would be saved at last we must all learn the lesson of penitence and faith at the foot of the cross. **Christ suffered humiliation to save us from everlasting disgrace. He consented to have scorn, mockery, and abuse fall upon Him in order to shield us.** It was our transgression that gathered the veil of darkness about His divine soul and extorted the cry from Him, as of one smitten and forsaken of God. He bore our sorrows; He was put to grief for our sins. He made Himself an offering for sin, that we might be justified before God through Him. Everything noble and generous in man will respond to the contemplation of Christ upon the cross." *4 Testimonies pg. 374*

There are some now that are saying that the Catholic 'stations of the cross' are a good way to fulfill this suggestion by the Messenger of the Lord; but does this have any validity at all? **I wish to draw attention to the fact oft repeated in the Spirit of Prophecy, that error mixed with truth is the most dangerous. Error is a parasite that cannot stand alone, it must always be mixed with some truth.** Satan knows better than to place a dish of pure error in front of people, especially God's elect, as they would turn from it in a flash; So don't be misled by some parts of the 'Stations' that seem to have truth in them.

I was reading the Bible on the closing days of Jesus life on earth and it came to me to check out the Stations of the Cross to see where they started and ended. This is a very important thing to observe; also the great number of things left out that would tend to focus our eyes heavenward, and things added to focus our eyes to the human.

I wish to draw attention first to the non-biblical and humanistic slant of the Stations of the Cross and then look at a brief view of the wealth of spiritual insights we are to contemplate on the 'closing scenes' of the Savior's life among men that are left out of the 'stations'. I am going to use italics between the sections to point out the failures of this sad counterfeit. This study is not aimed at Catholics; it's aimed at Advent believers retreating to Egypt.

Stations of the Cross: An Act Of Contrition

Italics Temcat's comments

O my God, my Redeemer, behold me here at Thy feet. From the bottom of my heart I am sorry for all my sins, because by them I have offended Thee, Who art infinitely good. I will die rather than offend thee again.

Notice where the emphasis is being place here—on the human, on an 'act of contrition' to gain merit. Also that sin is a matter of offending God, (making Him seem fickle and easily angered) rather than the breaking of the everlasting Law. There is no clear definition so that the person may understand what sin is and why the Price was needed to redeem man from the penalty of the broken Law.

FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to Death

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Notice it isn't by paying the penalty of the broken Law of God, but by the 'Cross' a symbol that can be worshipped. This focus on the symbol is repeated in each station.

My Jesus, often have I signed the death warrant by my sins; save me by Thy death from that eternal death which I have so often deserved.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory Be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Prayers to Mary and for the dead souls. Notice also the repetitious, formal prayers forbidden by Jesus. Again these serve not as a link from the repenting sinner to the tender heart of God, but rather a 'works' by which he hopes to 'earn' salvation.

Notice that in each station the words 'Jesus Christ Crucified' repeated like a verbal crucifix hung before the eyes, a helpless Christ nailed to a cross forever. Satan wishes it was that way! A helpless Savior; a weak Savior; a confined Savior; not the mighty Redeemer holding 'All power in heaven and earth'! I'll mark them for each section.

SECOND STATION: Jesus bears His Cross

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Who by Thine own will didst take on Thee the most heavy cross I made for Thee by my sins, oh, make me feel their heavy weight, and weep for them ever while I live.

Here it is being expressed by the penitent that they want to bear their own sins forever; if we had to bear our sins it would crush us! Jesus' purpose is to free us from the terrible burden.

"Tenderly He bade the toiling people, "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." In these words Christ is speaking to every human being. Whether they know it or not, all are weary and heavy-laden. All are weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin. If we were left to bear this burden, it would crush us. But the Sinless One has taken our place. "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6. He has borne the burden of our guilt. He will take the load from our weary shoulders. He will give us rest. The burden of care and sorrow also He will bear. He invites us to cast all our care upon Him; for He carries us upon His heart." Desire of Ages, pg. 328.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory Be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

THIRD STATION: Jesus falls the First time Beneath the Cross

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, the heavy burden of my sins is on Thee, and bears Thee down beneath the cross. I loathe them, I detest them; I call on Thee to pardon them; by Thy grace aid me never more to commit them.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory Be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

It is interesting that the three falls of Christ are not to be found in the Bible—indeed there is no mention of any fall; although one fall could be inferred by them getting Simon to carry the cross. It seems again that the impotence of Jesus is being emphasized in the Stations.

In the Spirit of Prophecy we find it told that Jesus fell fainting. Notice however that as you read the account, one is not led to focus upon Jesus' weakness but rather His strength as you review what He bore without a murmur.

"As Jesus passed the gate of Pilate's court, the cross which had been prepared for Barabbas was laid upon His bruised and bleeding shoulders. Two companions of Barabbas were to suffer death at the same time with Jesus, and upon them also crosses were placed. The Saviour's burden was too heavy for Him in His weak and suffering condition. Since the Passover supper with His disciples, He had taken neither food nor drink. He had agonized in the garden of Gethsemane in conflict with satanic agencies.

He had endured the anguish of the betrayal, and had seen His disciples forsake Him and flee. He had been taken to Annas, then to Caiaphas, and then to Pilate. From Pilate He had been sent to Herod, then sent again to Pilate. From insult to renewed insult, from mockery to mockery, twice tortured by the scourge,—all that night there had been scene after scene of a character to try the soul of man to the uttermost. Christ had not failed. He had spoken no word but that tended to glorify God. All through the disgraceful farce of a trial He had borne Himself with firmness and dignity. But when after the second scourging the cross was laid upon Him, human nature could bear no more. He fell fainting beneath the burden." *Desire of Ages*, pg. 741

By the way, God could have given Jesus the strength to bear that cross, indeed run with it, but God was showing us that there is a work for us to do in receiving our salvation—Jesus didn't 'do it all at the cross' so we can drift to heaven with no burden on us at all! What does 'carry the cross' mean to us as Christians? It means self-surrendered to Christ!

*"It is love of selfish ease, love of pleasure, your self-esteem, self-exaltation, that prevents you from learning the precious life-lessons in the school of Christ. It is the Christian's duty not to permit surroundings and circumstances to mold him; but to live above surroundings, fashioning his character according to the divine Model. He is to be faithful in whatever place he is found. He is to do his duty with fidelity, improving the opportunities given him of God, making the most of his capabilities. With an eye single to the glory of God, he is to work for Jesus wherever he may be. We are to surrender the will, the heart, to God, and become acquainted with Christ. We must deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. Not one of us can reach heaven, save by the narrow, cross-bearing way. But how many wear the cross as an ornament of the person, but fail to bear the cross in practical, every-day life." *Review and Herald*, 09-22-91*

FOURTH STATION: Jesus Meets His Holy Mother

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus most suffering, Mary Mother most sorrowful, if, by my sins, I caused you pain and anguish in the past, by God's assisting grace it shall be so no more; rather be you my love henceforth till death.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Not Biblical at all, also notice the focus of the attention on Mary, one who can't help us at all as she is dead. Mary is not bothered by our sins; Prayers to her are prayers to the dead, represented by demon spirits.

FIFTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
+ - Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, blest, thrice blest was he who aided Thee to bear the cross. Blest too shall I be if I aid Thee to bear the cross, by patiently bowing my neck to the crosses Thou shalt send me during life. My Jesus, give me grace to do so

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.
+ - Have mercy on Us.
V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.
+ - Amen.

Again remember that 'bearing the cross' means surrendering of the 'self' the 'will' to Jesus.

SIXTH STATION: Jesus and Veronica

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
+ - Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

My tender Jesus, Who didst deign to print Thy sacred face upon the cloth with which Veronica wiped the sweat from off Thy brow, print in my soul deep, I pray Thee, the lasting memory of Thy bitter pains.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.
+ - Have mercy on Us.
V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.
+ - Amen.

Here we see something totally non-biblical and a farce miracle that would tend to open the door to relic worship and the adoration of 'holy objects', not to mention saint worship. Jesus never performed any miracle except to meet a genuine, practical need; 'signs and wonders' were what the Jews demanded of Him and He never indulged them even once!

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Fall a Second Time

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.
+ - Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, often have I sinned and often, by sin, beaten Thee to the ground beneath the cross. Help me to use the efficacious means of grace that I may never fall again.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have Mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Again a focus on the helplessness and impotence of Christ, this second and third fall is not Biblical at all. I am not sure about all the implications of the 'three falls', but it is obvious something that Satan gets honor from, and degrades Christ.

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, Who didst comfort the pious women of Jerusalem who wept to see Thee bruised and torn, comfort my soul with Thy tender pity, for in Thy pity lies my trust. May my heart ever answer Thine.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have Mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Notice the words of Jesus in the Bible to the women of Jerusalem were a warning to them, a prophecy of coming destruction. He longed to shelter His people from the 'wrath to come' but they would have none of it; Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not!

NINTH STATION: Jesus falls a third time

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, by all the bitter woes Thou didst endure when for the third time the heavy cross bowed Thee to the earth, never, I beseech Thee, let me fall again into sin. Ah, my Jesus, rather let me die than ever offend Thee again.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace.

+ - Amen.

(See seven) again no Biblical foundation here; sin is made to appear a personal offending of God, something vague and indiscernible; if you live with a person that is easily offended, you

are always stressed, as you aren't sure what is going to offend them next. Under the papal system the person can never find peace in His Lord, because he is never sure just what the Lord requires, and just what offends Him; and good works and acts of contrition are never satisfying as you can never feel it is enough.

TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of His garments and given gall to drink

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, stripped of Thy garments and drenched with gall, strip me of love for things of earth, and make me loathe all that savors of the world and sin.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Jesus was offered vinegar mingled with gall, which the Spirit of Prophecy tells us was a stupefying potion; Jesus refused to drink it. Nowhere are we told He was drenched with it.

The Bible also focuses on the fulfillment of prophecy from the Old Testament, "They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did." John 19:24. "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." Psalms 22:18.

Never do these 'stations' focus attention on God's Word, the prophecies or anything with real power to change the fallen heart of man.

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, by Thine agony when the cruel nails pierced Thy tender hands and feet and fixed them to the cross, make me crucify my flesh by Christian penance.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

I find it amazing that the prayer of Jesus for the forgiveness of His enemies is totally left out

here!! Notice the emphasis on penance and torturing the body. The concept is totally Pagan and forbidden by both Old and New Testament scriptures.

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Dies

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, three hours didst Thou hang in agony, and then die for me; let me die before I sin, and if I live, live for Thy love and faithful service.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

I am not sure about the 'three' hours. Totally left out here are: The earthquake, darkness and Jesus loud cry "It is Finished"

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken from the cross and laid in Mary's arms

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

O Mary, Mother most sorrowful, the sword of grief pierced thy soul when thou didst see Jesus lying lifeless on thy bosom; obtain for me hatred of sin because sin slew thy Son and wounded thine own heart, and grace to live a Christian life and save my soul.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Again non-biblical; again attention focused away from Christ to poor, human, long dead Mary. No mention is made of the act of Jesus in providing for the care of His mother before He died. Also again sin is that nebulous concept, so that you aren't sure what it, is but can always be tormented by the thought that whatever you are told is sin, then it is so.

FOURTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the tomb

V - We adore Thee, O Christ, and bless Thee.

+ - Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

My Jesus, beside Thy body in the tomb I, too, would lie dead; but if I live, let it be for Thee, so

as one day to enjoy with Thee in heaven the fruits of Thy passion and Thy bitter death.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be to the Father....

V - Jesus Christ Crucified.

+ - Have mercy on Us.

V - May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

+ - Amen.

Here lies the Saviour; right there in the grave where Satan wanted Him to stay! Nothing here to inspire the heart with Joy, Hope and Faith in the mighty power of our Redeemer! In the 'Stations of the Cross' there He is forever, in the tomb; can anyone look at this and doubt that the author behind it is the father of darkness? Read what they left out:

"The night of the first day of the week had worn slowly away. The darkest hour, just before daybreak, had come. Christ was still a prisoner in His narrow tomb. The great stone was in its place; the Roman seal was unbroken; the Roman guards were keeping their watch. And there were unseen watchers. Hosts of evil angels were gathered about the place. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held the Son of God. But a heavenly host surrounded the sepulcher. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb, and waiting to welcome the Prince of life.

"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven." Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. The bright beams of God's glory went before him, and illuminated his pathway. "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

"Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard? Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ's birth. The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, "I am the resurrection, and the life." As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bow low in adoration before the Redeemer, and welcome Him with songs of praise." Desire of Ages, pg. 779

LET US PRAY

O God, Who by the precious blood of Thine only-begotten Son didst sanctify the standard of the cross; grant we beseech Thee, that we who rejoice in the glory of the same holy cross may feel everywhere the gladness of Thy sovereign protection. Through the same Christ our Lord... Amen.....

Look again- the focus of attention is away from God—pointing to a symbol, an outward sign; a

magic talisman, if you will. Wear the symbol around your neck as a charm.

Now look with me very briefly at some of the many mighty lessons totally overlooked in this ritual. How can Advent Believers be looking to this ritual of the 'Stations' and acclaiming it? Surely those with so rich and abundant, living light, would not see anything in the 'unfruitful works of darkness' man invented, man corrupted, Satan inspired! I urge each person to take the Desire of Ages and read each chapter with prayer. I am not going to go into detail but urge your personal study of each thought below.

- 1. Washing disciples feet—including Judas*
- 2. Lord's supper—prayer for His disciples*
- 3. Last parable of vine and branches*
- 4. Gethsemane—3 times the cup trembles in His hands—3 times He surrenders*
- 5. Sins of the whole world laid on Jesus*
- 6. Angel sent to strengthen Jesus*
- 7. Mob scene, mob falls, Judas' kiss*
- 8. Peter's 'defense' "they that take the sword shall perish with the sword"*
- 9. Farce trials Annas, Caiaphas, Bribed witnesses, lies, mockery*
- 10. Peter's denial*
- 11. Judas' confession*
- 12. Jesus' warning to High Priest*
- 13. Pilate—scourging, mocking,*
- 14. Herod—purple robe, mocking, crown of thorns*
- 15. Jesus' silence*
- 16. Pilate's question, "What is Truth!"*
- 17. Pilate—scourging again, people choose Barabbas*
- 18. "We have no king but Caesar"*
- 19. Priests influence the people to reject Christ*
- 20. At Calvary, Jesus prayer to forgive His enemies*
- 21. The salvation of the repenting thief*
- 22. Jesus providing for His mother's needs by turning her over to John*
- 23. The earthquake, darkness and Jesus loud cry "It is Finished"*
- 24. Nicodemus and Joseph's plea for the body*
- 25. The resting on the Sabbath*
- 26. The priests' plan to seal Jesus in the tomb forever*
- 27. The mighty angel rolls away the stone*
- 28. The message of the soldiers*
- 29. The lying report placed in their mouths by the bribery of the soldiers by priests*
- 30. The empty tomb*

It is possible to go on and on, friends; we serve a LIVING GOD!! Satan didn't seal Him in that tomb, neither could the priests, nor can the Romans! Why seek ye the Living among the dead? The Light shines in the darkness but the darkness doesn't comprehend it; but Light destroys darkness and so it will be. Amen!