

Reading: Luke 23:1-17

***“Christ left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly”  
(1 Pet 2:23)***

Jesus was perfect in His words. If He Himself was so misunderstood in His day, how do we expect that we can escape the cross of misunderstanding? How Jesus handled misunderstanding and injustice gives us at least three valuable lessons.

a) *“God is on the Throne!”*

“You may misunderstand Me, but My Father in Heaven knows My heart. You may mistreat Me, but My Father in Heaven will vindicate Me. You may be sitting on the Prime Minister’s seat or the President’s chair, but the one seated on the throne in Heaven is My Father.” This was the mental response of Jesus to misunderstanding and mistreatment. Look at the answer He gave to Pilate: “Pilate said to Him: Do You not know that I have authority to crucify You, and authority to release You? Jesus answered: You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from **above!**” (Jn 19:10,11).

b) *“Silence is gold!”*

There are times when silence is more powerful than words. Silence is not because we don’t know what to say but it is unspoken confidence and assurance. When the Priest asked Jesus, “Do You answer nothing?”, Jesus kept silent (Mt 26:62,63). When Pilate asked Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?”, Jesus answered him “not one word,” so Pilate marvelled (Mt 27:13,14).

c) *“The Scripture must be fulfilled!”*

What God has told us in the light, we must not doubt in the dark. From His childhood Jesus preoccupied Himself with the study of the Scriptures. Through the Holy Spirit He had understood all that had been written about Him. He took consistent and conscious effort to live in perfect alignment with the Word. This is what He said to Peter when the latter cut off the ear of the High Priest’s servant— “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **HOW THEN COULD THE SCRIPTURE BE FULFILLED?**” (Mt 26:52-56).

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that thru all time abide!  
(John Bowring, 1792-1872)*

Almighty God, the Creator, the Sustainer, and the Ruler of this Universe,

We worship You because You are the Source of all knowledge and wisdom. Thank You for presenting Your Son as the Perfect Pattern for us to follow in everything, especially in the matter of suffering.

Dear Lord, we bring before You the injustice that's meted out to us in our workplace, the abusive words that are spoken against us, the false accusation that's made against us, the pain that's inflicted on us by our bosses and coworkers, and torturous situations we pass through. We are too weak in faith to handle them positively. Strengthen us, O God, by Your enabling power. May Your Spirit keep reminding us that nothing would happen in our life *without* Your knowledge and permission, because it's You who are on the Throne! You know our end from the beginning. Even our very hairs are numbered.

Help us, O Father, to guard our words when we are agitated. Forgive us our impatience and lack of tongue-control. Remove from us the tit-for-tat spirit. Enable us to follow the footsteps of Jesus in responding or reacting to harsh words spoken against us. You are our Defender, O Lord! Let's leave our case into Your hands. You will vindicate us. Your judgments are always right and fair. Help us to be quiet and confident in turbulent situations. The battle is not ours but Yours.

Thank You, O God, for Your holy Word! Let's not study it with mere academic interest. Help us, O Lord, through Your Spirit not only to understand it but also obey it and apply its teachings in our daily life. Let's not just be Bible-lovers, but be Bible-livers! Not just hearers but doers of Your Word! May Your Word become flesh in us! Forgive us for the times when we went by our own opinions rather than by the Biblical principles. We lose direction because we don't carry the lamp of Your Word. Your Word alone is absolutely true, noble, just, pure, lovely, virtuous and praiseworthy. Help us live by every word that proceeds out of Your mouth.

What an example Your Son has left for us! Even His last saying on the Cross was what was written in Your Scriptures. We thank You, O Father, for this challenge.

We submit this prayer in the Name of Jesus our Lord! Amen!

*(Acts 17:24,25; Col 1:16; Heb 1:3; 2:18; Js 1:17,22; Jn 1:14; 17:17; 19:10,11;  
Rom 12:19; Mt 27:13,14; 1 Pet 5:7; Psa 23:46; 31:5; 119:97,105,137; 141:3;  
2 Cor 3:3; Lk 12:7; 23:46; Rev 16:7; 19:1; Isa 46:10; 1 Sam 17:47)*