

For Crying Out Loud!

Mark 15:39

By: Martin A. Shue

For the modern version readers many key aspects of the Bible are lost. So many of the true words of God have been altered or omitted that they are only receiving partial truth. It is a terrible thing when even one word is altered in God's inspired words. Further, it is a great sin when important truths are hidden from God's people due to the ignorance of translating committees.

In Mark 15:39 we find an example of what I am saying. Our AV reads, "And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God." The NASV reads, "When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!". Most modern versions read like the NASV.

Noticeably the phrase "cried out" is missing in the mvs. This phrase is a vital part of the verse and without it the verse loses its impact and meaning. John Chrysostom in his 'Homilies', that were delivered between 386 AD and 388 AD, made the following observations: "So for this cause He cried with the voice, that it might be shown that the act is done by power. Mark at any rate saith, that "*Pilate marveled if He were already dead:*" **and that the centurion for this cause above all believed, because He died with power.**" (Chrysostom, *Homily 88*) (emphasis mine). John Gill comments that the thrust of the verse was "that he cried with so loud and strong a voice, and the next moment expired:". Finis Jennings Dake notes that the significance of the 'cry' "show[ed] normal strength to the end, proving He voluntarily laid down His life". This is the importance of this phrase (i.e. cried out), viz. the centurion was taken with the fact that Jesus so "cried out" (showing He still retained His entire strength) and in the next instant "gave up the ghost". In other words He did not slowly expire as so many did on the Roman cross but He voluntarily laid down His life with full strength and full consciousness. It was this amazing fact (i.e. the crying out) that caused the centurion to boldly proclaim that "**Truly this man was the Son of God**". Without the phrase "cried out" the entire meaning of the verse is lost.

Now, the more scholarly type may chance to wonder on what grounds the word 'kraxas' or 'cried out' has been omitted from not only most mvs but also the underlying Greek texts. The word is wanting in Aleph, Vaticanus (B), L, Psi and minuscule 892. Though Nestle/Aland adds "pc", which means "a few", I have yet to find any other Greek mss. that omit the word. Perhaps others reading this may be able to elaborate on this "pc".

At any rate that is the sum total of the evidence (sic) against our Saviour's last cry. Every other mss., both uncial and cursive, contains the word. It is also the reading of the Old Latin and the Vulgate. The omission can only be explained by the fact that modern translators share the 'blind adulation' of Aleph and B that Westcott & Hort established.

As has been demonstrated countless times-----if you want God's perfect, preserved, inspired words stick with your Authorized Version. The modern versions have gone out of their way to corrupt the words of the Living God. Selah!