

The King Crucified: Matthew 27:32-66

- **Jesus' Crucifixion (32-44)**
 - v.32—"out of the city"—God determined his Son would be crucified OUTSIDE the city as unworthy, that he might admit us INTO his heavenly kingdom! (Hebrews 13)
 - Psalm 22—repeatedly referenced by Matthew (portraying Jesus as the righteous sufferer!)
 - v.34—Jesus refused the drink because he wanted to go to his death calmly & consciously
 - Either used as a narcotic or was used to speed up death—Jesus' refusal indicates his willingness to endure the fullness of death in total consciousness!
 - v.35-36—"divided his garments"—another allusion to Psalm 22 (v.18)
 - The Son of God was stripped of his garments that, by his nakedness, we might obtain the riches of his righteousness! He was UNROBED in humiliation that we might be CLOTHED in honor and righteousness.
 - v.37—"This is Jesus, The King of the Jews"—a paradoxical irony—in his death, Jesus was definitely being stamped as the KING...just a different kind of king than expected!
 - v.38, 44—between 2 robbers; and the robbers reviled him the same way
 - These 2 robbers were Barabbas' comrades—Jesus was crucified where Barabbas belonged! Jesus was crucified where WE belonged! The righteous Son takes the place of the vilest criminal!
 - 1 Tim. 1:15—we should say along with Paul, "I am the foremost of sinners!"
 - **This is SUBSTITUTION**—our first parents substituted themselves for God..."We'll be God." Jesus, the God-man, goes to the cross saying, "I'll substitute myself for them!" I'll bear the wage of sin! I'll pay for it!
 - v.39—echoes of Psalm 22:7 with God's righteous one being mocked and derided
 - **Actually were crucified low to the ground so people could come, see their faces, spit, etc**
 - v.40—"if you are the Son of God"—a lot like Satan's temptation in Matthew 4:3...here, like there, Jesus could still exploit his status and escape the consequences yet here, like in Gethsemane, he withstands the temptation.
 - Irony—it is precisely BECAUSE he is the Son of God that he must continue in obedience to the Father and remain on the cross!
 - **Deut. 21:23—anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse**
 - **Gal. 3:13—cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree**
 - v.41-44—EVERYONE had rejected Jesus (soldiers, Jews, onlookers, criminals, leaders)
 - v.42—Why did he not "save himself"? Because he was securing our salvation! If he had come down, there would have been no true Messiah on whom to believe!
 - v.43—"he trusts in God"—Satan tempting him with the lie that God had forgotten Him simply because he did not relieve the pain immediately! God has PROMISED to be our deliverer. **Therefore, it is CONTRARY to faith to ever use the word NOW by those whom God is training for obedience by the cross and whom he entreats to pray and call on him!**
- **Jesus' Death (45-56)—moves Jesus from the passive recipient to a vocal participant!**
 - v.45—darkness—picture of death, sin, lostness, etc., and a sign of God's displeasure on the people's rejection of Jesus and as a representation of his judgment on sin.
 - Was local—a visible indictment on their rejection and a sign of looming judgement
 - the people's eyes were SHUT to the light of the gospel in Christ and the literal darkness was meant to show them God's design in the cross and cause them to tremble!
 - v.45, 51-52—darkness, earthquake, splitting rocks, tearing of the veil...**as if heaven and earth themselves are rendering the homage to Christ that He deserves!**
 - v.46—"Jesus cried out"—this is the only time used in NT
 - Agonized expression of a real sense of alienation.
 - Only time in NT where Jesus addresses God without calling him Father.
 - **This is ATONEMENT**...in this very moment, Jesus was experiencing all the penalty of sin—the fullness of separation from God that we might be made ONE with him!

- Not only did Jesus offer his BODY as the price of our reconciliation, but he also bore the punishment due to us in his SOUL! In order to satisfy God's wrath toward us, Christ had to be placed AS GUILTY before the judgement seat of God!
 - "My God, My God" —his faith remained firm! He never lost grip of the fact that God would not ultimately forsake him but would keep him through resurrection!
 - v.50—loud voice—Jesus was laying down his life...it wasn't being taken!
 - Luke 23:46— "into your hands I commit my spirit"—his faith was unshaken. Jesus was attacked on every side...no hope from anyone! Yet he throws himself onto God in whom he can rest according to all his amazing promises!
 - In committing his spirit to the Father, Jesus was also entrusting the souls of the elect to the Father. He was persevering under the Father's wrath in FULL FAITH on our behalf. By his enduring and entrusting of his and our souls to the Father, we can rest assured of salvation! Jesus is our faithful guardian, guarding our souls until that day when we breathe our last and enter his kingdom!
 - v.51 — "the curtain of the temple was torn in two"—Jesus' broken body opens the way for us into the presence of God with confidence!
 - Jesus is the Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5-6). The temple would crumble. He is the meeting place between man and God. Religious system = gone. Ceremonies = gone. Sacrifices = gone!
 - Veil tore at 3pm—that's when evening sacrifices began. priests would have been in the inner courts performing duties and would have been left exposed and visible for the first time ever! Amazing timing—Jesus dies, curtain tears, sacrifices set to begin!
 - Hebrews 9:25-28—once for all sacrifice of Christ for salvation
 - v.52-53—earthquake = supernatural, creation-level confirmation of Jesus as God's Son
 - What's going on here?
 - 2 focuses of Christ's death and resurrection—He blots out sin (curtain torn in 2) and he promises eternal life and resurrection all who believe (tombs open)!
 - Jesus went to the prison of death, not to stay, but to provide freedom for its captives!
 - Why only a few raised? Not yet time for Christ to fully gather his entire Bride, the Church, to himself but he hinted at that full glorious resurrection by raising a few!
 - v.54—Judea rejects and mocks Jesus; Gentiles acknowledge and confess Jesus!
- Jesus' Burial (57-66)
 - Jesus Dead and Buried (57-61)—Meant to highlight the certitude of Jesus' death!
 - v.60—buried in a tomb removed all doubt as to the legitimacy and certainty of his death.
 - The Setting of the Guard (62-66)
 - Irony—because they made a scheme and plan to set guards shows that God USED them to even further magnify his Son's resurrection! The resurrection of Christ would have been less manifest with more cause for denying it had these men NOT made their plan to protect the tomb! God, as if he had hired these men for their services, employed them that the glory of his Son's resurrection would be all the more glorious!
 - Closing:
 - J.C. Ryle—Was he scourged? It was that "through his stripes we might be healed." Was he condemned, though innocent? It was that we might be acquitted, though guilty. Did he wear a crown of thorns? It was that we might wear the crown of glory. Was he stripped of his garments? It was that we might be clothed in everlasting righteousness. Was he mocked and reviled? It was that we might be honored and blessed. Was he reckoned a criminal, and numbered among transgressors? It was that we might be reckoned innocent, and justified from all sin. Was he declared unable to save himself? It was that he might be able to save others to the uttermost. Did he die at last, and that the most painful and disgraceful of deaths? It was that we might live for evermore, and be exalted to the highest glory.
 - Why is this good news? Because it was FOR US if we believe! If we reject him, this is our punishment! Reason to worship—none of these things are realities for Jesus anymore!!