

“And Sitting Down They Watched Him There”

Matt. 27:29-36

Introduction → Events Leading Up To The Cross

- The Discourse with the Apostles
- Institution of the Lord’s Supper
- Prayer in Gethsemane
- The Betrayal by Judas
- Jesus Seized by the mob with swords and clubs
- The apostles scatter and flee
- A succession of mock trials
- Peter’s denial
- A succession of mock trials:
 - Jesus before Annas: smitten by the temple officer
 - Jesus before Caiaphas: false witnesses, accused of blasphemy, hit, spit upon, face covered and mocked. Who hit you?
 - Jesus before the Jewish council: met to deliver to Pilate
 - Jesus before Pilate: Jews make false accusations, Pilate finds no fault.
 - Jesus before Herod: Accused by chief priests and scribes; mocked; set at naught; robe
 - Jesus before Pilate: Barabbas offered; washes hands; Jesus scourged, smitten, spit upon, mocked with robe, crown, staff, hail, king of Jews...
- Led away to be crucified outside the city.
- Jesus carries his own cross.
- Simon of Cyrene is compelled to bear the cross of Jesus.
- Jesus is crucified between two thieves.
- Verbal abuse is heaped on him.
- Things Jesus said on the cross:
 - Father forgive them, for they know not what they do
 - Today you will be with me in paradise
 - Behold your son: behold your mother
 - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me
 - I thirst
 - It is finished
 - Father, into your hands I commit my spirit
- Death of Jesus on the cross.

Discussion: What Did They “See” As They Watched Him There?

- God’s Grace → The manifestation of his unmerited favor.
 - but we see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by God’s grace he would experience death on behalf of everyone. (Heb. 2:9)
 - For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - Grace does not exclude conditions/obedience. (Heb. 5:8-9)

- God’s Love → His ultimate concern for us -- our salvation. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 2:11; Matt. 5:44ff)
 - Love that is undeserved. (Rom. 5:6-8)

- Love that sent Jesus to be our propitiation. (I Jn. 4:10)
- Love that should be reciprocated by our love for him. (I Jn. 4:19; Jn. 14:15)

•God's Word Fulfilled → The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ had been in God's eternal purpose, and was foretold in the Old Testament literally hundreds of years earlier: (Matt. 26:54, 56; I Cor. 15:1-3)

- Gen. 3:15 → a painful attack verses a fatal blow. (Heb. 2:14-15)
- Psalm 22:1,6-8,14-18 → Matt. 27, etc.
- Isa. 53 → (Acts 8:35)

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•Sin's terrible price.

- The nature of sin. (I Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Js. 4:17)
- God's view of sin. (Isa. 1:5-6; II Pet. 2:20-22)
- Results of sin. (Eph. 2:1-2; Rom. 6:23)
- The death of Jesus – the only solution to sin. (II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24)
- The blood of Jesus – the only price to redeem us from sin. (I Pet. 1:18-20; Matt. 26:28; Rev. 1:5)

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•Darkness from noon to three. (Matt. 27:45)

•The curtain of the temple rent from top to bottom. (Matt. 27:51)

•An earthquake. (Matt. 27:51)

•Graves of saints opened, who appeared in the city after his resurrection. (Matt. 27:52-54)