

# **“The Cross Of Christ”**

## **Matthew 27:32-46**

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**Teaching Aim:** To examine the events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. To explore the humiliation Jesus faced as the soldiers, religious leaders, celebrants of Passover and even criminals mocked Him. To recognize Jesus demonstrated strength under control as He went to the cross and died for our sins. To realize Jesus had to take our place and face the fury of the wrath of God in order for us to be saved!

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: The painful journey to Golgotha; the Place of a Skull (Matt. 27:32-37)**

1. After being flogged and mistreated by the soldiers, Jesus began His journey up the Via Dolorosa towards Calvary (**vs. 32**). Why did the soldiers force an individual to help Jesus carry His cross? Why Simon? What can we learn about Simon from where he was from? Why do you think the Bible specifically names him?
  
2. According to **Mark 15:21**, does it appear members of the early church were familiar with Simon and his family? (See **Romans 16:13**) If Simon’s sons were followers of Jesus Christ, what can we surmise about Simon? Is it possible Simon of Cyrene (a Jew) may have come to faith in Christ as he carried the cross of Jesus and witnessed the events surrounding His crucifixion?
  
3. The narrow road Jesus walked along on His journey to Golgotha is known as the Via Dolorosa (**vs. 33**). Did Jesus make this journey alone, or were other criminals paraded with Him also condemned to death? (See **Luke 23:32**) What did Jesus say to some of the women standing along the Via Dolorosa as they wept? (See **Luke 23:27-30**) What major event was Jesus prophesying? (Hint: Google Jerusalem in A.D. 70)
  
4. What two locations in Jerusalem are thought by many to be the location of Golgotha (**vs. 33**)? (Hint: Google it) Which of the two locations do you think fits best with the biblical narrative? What is the meaning of the word “*Golgotha*”? Why do you think this title was chosen for the location?

5. What did the soldiers offer Jesus in **verse 34**? What were the ingredients of this drink and how was it used? Did Jesus accept the soldiers offer? Why?
  
6. What makes crucifixion so painful (**vs. 35**)? What is usually the cause of death in crucifixion? Are people still being crucified today? If so, where?
  
7. Why did the soldiers divide the clothes of Jesus among themselves and cast lots for them (**vs. 35**)? Were victims crucified with their clothes on or were they removed to further the humiliation of those being crucified? How does **verse 35** fulfill the Messianic prophecy found in **Psa. 22:16-18**?
  
8. Why were the soldiers sitting down after Jesus was crucified (**vs. 36**)? What inscription was placed above the head of Jesus (**vs. 37**)? In how many languages were used on these inscriptions? What were they? (See **John 19:20-21**) What was the purpose of this sign? Did the Romans crucify people in isolated areas or in areas of high traffic? Why?

## **Part II: Two robbers with one final choice to make (Matt. 27:38-44)**

1. According to **verse 38**, how many other people were crucified with Jesus? How is **verse 38** a fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy found in **Isaiah 53:12**? How do these two represent the choices all of us have to make? (See **Luke 23:19-43**)
  
2. Jesus was crucified during the Passover Festival. According to **verse 39**, how did the crowd interact with Jesus while He was on the cross? What did Matthew mean when he said they "*blasphemed Him*"? (See Dictionary) In what way does **verse 39** fulfill **Psa. 22:7-8**?

3. What saying of Jesus did the Jews misrepresent in **verse 40**? (See **John 2:19-21**) Which temple were the Jews referring to? What Temple was Jesus speaking of? How is the temptation found in **verse 40** similar to those found in **Matt. 4:1-11**? What would have happened if Jesus had of come down from the cross when the religious leaders mocked Him?
  
4. Was Jesus in the process of fulfilling the prophecy of **John 2:19-21** at the very time the Jews were mocking Him in **verse 40**? Who was in the forefront mocking Jesus as He died on the cross for the sins of the world (**vs. 41**)? (See **1 John 2:2**)
  
5. What are some ways we can tell the true spiritual leader from the false? (See **Matt. 7:15-20**) Why do you think so many churches have gone astray today?
  
6. In what way were the religious leaders mocking Jesus in **verse 42**? Do you think these so-called religious leaders would have put their trust in Jesus even if He had of come down from the cross? Why or why not? Why do you think unbelievers don't see the Lord in the same way that believers do? (See **John 3:3; Rom. 8:7-9; Eph. 2:1**) Have you ever experienced frustration in trying to witness to unbelieving family members and friends? What makes this frustrating?
  
7. Have you ever questioned the faithfulness of God when times were tough? Why do you think so many people today blame God when life gets tough instead of focusing their blame on Satan? What are some of the ways the religious leaders were attacking Jesus? (**vs. 43**)?
  
8. According to **verse 44**, how did the two robbers on the crosses next to Jesus treat Him? What is the meaning of the word "*reviled*"? (See Dictionary) One of the thieves on a cross had a change of heart; what happened? (See **Luke 23:39-43**)

9. Why do so many people today not fear God; even on their deathbed? (See **John 3:3**) What did Jesus promise the thief on the cross who put his trust in Him? (See **Luke 23:42-43**) How does this truth relate to us today? What is meant when we say that a person was saved at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour? Have you ever known anyone who was saved at the 11th hour?

### **Part III: The Holy Son of God forsaken by His Father on the cross (Matt. 27:45-46)**

1. How many hours was Jesus on the cross? (See **Mark 15:25, 33-34**) What time of the day was it? What unusual phenomena took place in **verse 45**? Was this a solar eclipse or a supernatural act of God? What did the darkness represent?
  
2. Was there a time in the Old Testament where a miracle of darkness came before the sacrifice of the Passover lamb? (See **Exod. 10:21-29**) How long was this darkness for? In this case, where were the people of God (Israel) being led? Where will the people of God (Christians) be led to who feast on the real Lamb of God (Jesus)?
  
3. What took place every day at the temple when the ninth hour or 3:00pm arrived? How far was the temple located from where Jesus was being crucified? At 3:00pm Jesus cried out a phrase part Aramaic and part Hebrew, what did He say (**vs. 46**)? What Old Testament passage did Jesus quote as He cried out? (See **Psa. 22:1**) **Psalm 22** was written a thousand years before the birth of Christ and some 700 years before crucifixion was popular as a means of execution. What does **Psalm 22:1-22** describe in detail?
  
4. Why do you think Jesus cried out in such agony (**vs. 46**)? Why was it important for the Father to forsake Jesus on Good Friday? (See **2 Cor. 5:21**) Why do we call "Good Friday" good? What would our state be today if the Father had not forsaken Jesus? (See **Gal. 3:13-14; Rom. 5:8-9**)

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- The Jew, Simon of Cyrene, may have come to faith in Jesus as he carried the cross of Christ and then witnessed the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus!
- The cross was one of the most humiliating and painful ways for a person to die!
- Golgotha is a small hill outside the city walls of Jerusalem that resembles a skull!
- Jesus refused to deaden the pain with narcotics; He wanted to be fully aware as He made atonement for our sins on the cross!
- Many of the events surrounding the cross fulfilled Old Testament prophesy!
- The so-called religious leaders were relentless and unrepentant in their attacks against Jesus!
- The Father forsook His Son on the cross as Jesus literally became our sin-bearer!
- We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone; there is no other way to salvation!