

Matthew 27:27-61 –5 April 2020

“How Do You See The Cross?”

Introduction

Today we see Christ Jesus’ death on the cross

This is the culmination of His dedication to save our souls as the Lamb of God, our substitutionary sacrifice.

He’s being examined (as the Lamb) for 4 days (as commanded in the Law of the Passover Lamb)

Christ’s teachings are to lead us to understand that we have need of a substitutionary Savior.

Read John 10:9-11 – He came to lay down His life for us to give us abundant life

Eph 2:14-18 – He’s abolished in His flesh the commandments to reconcile us to God

Many are happy w/ Christ’s teaching, but how do you react to the cross, the bloody death of Jesus?

Tonight, we see 3 responses to the death of Christ

1st Response to Christ on the cross, many will mock Him (Chap 27:27-44)

Read Vs 27-30

1. Roman soldiers here mock Jesus.
2. Some will mock Christ to demonstrate their authority over Him.
 - a. It's a false authority that will come to end.
 - b. They gathered the whole band around and spit on him.
 - i. This is more than just 'following orders'.
3. There are people that have a conversation saying they believe in Christ, but don't live it.
 - a. That's like placing a scepter in Christ's hand then beating Him w/ it rest of the week.
 - b. Do you say Christ is the authority, then violently push Him off the throne rest of week?

Read Vs 31-34

1. Simon (800 miles away) – What's his story?
2. They came outside Jerusalem to Golgotha, the Place of the Skull – in Latin Calvary.
3. No vinegar – faced everything w/ senses intact

Read Vs 35-38

1. Soldiers gambling for His clothes
2. Some will mock Christ not knowing just how close they are to the truth.
 - a. They are actually fulfilling prophecy and didn't know it.
 - b. The mock title that Pilate placed above the cross was...actually...true!
3. Interesting that those who are very verbal against Christ are often the one who repent and turn.
 - a. We know that one of these soldiers gets saved at the death of Christ!

Read Vs 39-40

1. The passersby mock Him
2. Some will mock Christ from a position of ignorance.
 - a. They don't know what they're talking about
 - b. They often repeat the same mockings they heard someone else say.
 - i. Exp – “The Bible is so full of errors; you can't believe what it says.”

Read Vs 41-44

1. These are the men that had every opportunity to know the truth of Jesus' claims.
2. Some mock b/c they don't know true power of God
 - a. Jesus had the power to come off the cross, but He was aiming at a much bigger goal.
(John 10:17-18)
 - b. Jesus had the power from His relationship with God the Father to strike these men down, but...wanted...their...salvation! (Acts 6:7)

2nd Response to Christ on the cross, many will misunderstand (Chap 27:45-50)

Read Vs 45-50

1. 6th hour=noon, 9th hour=3pm, day ends at 6pm.
2. Some misunderstand the whole message and ministry of Christ.
 - a. They thought He was calling for Elijah.
 - i. Elijah was to come before Christ
 - ii. But they misunderstood that he already came in the person of John the Baptist.
3. Jesus was often misunderstood.
 - a. “He cast out devil by the power of Satan”.
 - b. “Eat My flesh and drink My blood.”
4. Some today still misunderstand Jesus sayings.
 - i. How do we prevent misunderstanding Jesus?
 - ii. Receive every word from the mouth of God
5. Like the next words Jesus would say, “It is finished!”
 - a. Your debt is paid in full!

3rd Response to Christ on the cross, many will see it as a miracle (Chap 27:51-61)

Remember Vs 45

1. The darkness; this was during Passover which would be a full moon.
2. Did God use nature this time or was this supernatural?

Read Vs 51

1. This is the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.
2. Veil was 4” thick, 60 ft tall. It’s estimated it would have taken 30 team of oxen on either side to tear it....and it ripped from top to bottom.
3. Remember High Priest ripping his garment at the confession of Christ as the Son of God? 26:65
 - a. This the temple ripping her garments at the real blasphemy of rejecting the Messiah.
4. Josephus – 40 yrs before destruction of the temple the middle chief candle of Mennorah went out, never to come back on. Door flew open. (Zec 11:1)

Read Vs 52-53

1. Matthew inserts this a little early, b/c this happened after the resurrection.
2. Many believe they were raised just to die again
3. Could be they were raised to represent part of the 1st fruits of the harvest.
 - a. I Cor 15:23 tells us Christ is the 1st fruits of the harvest of souls.
 - b. It would make sense that others would be a part of this 1st fruits gathering to God.
 - c. Either way – this is a miracle designed to show God's power over death itself.

Read Vs 54-56

1. So, the greatest miracle of all, the conversion of a heart and mind, the salvation of a soul.
 - a. The centurion had a true conversion.
 - b. The women followed Christ thru the deepest valley of them all.

Read Vs 57-61

1. So the prophecy of Isa is fulfilled
2. Read Isa 53:9
3. What a miracle that people still served Jesus.
In the moment that it took the most faith to do so!

Conclusion

3 Responses to Christ on the cross

1. **Some will mock Him**
 - a. Maybe from pride
 - b. Maybe from fear of accepting the truth
2. **Some will misunderstand why**
 - a. Only cure is to dive into every Word of God
 - b. We're accountable for what we have before us in the Word of God
3. **Some will see it as a miracle**
 - a. Wind blows where it wills, has God's Spirit blown over you?