



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Cross!

Lesson Text: Matthew 27:27-31, 33-37, 45-50

Focus Verses: Matthew 27:29-31 - ²⁹And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus' death atoned for our sins so we could enter a greater covenant with God.

Covenant Context: All the Old Testament sacrifices and ceremonies have been pointing to this day in history: the day the sinless Lamb of God laid down His own life to save us. This is what we know as the gospel—that Jesus died for us, was buried, and rose from the grave. Because of the gospel, we can be made right with God and brought into a new and better covenant with Him that will stand until Jesus returns for His church.

Pilate demanded, *"What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified"* (Matthew 27:22-23). Finally, Pilate washed his hands of the matter and delivered Jesus to be scourged and then crucified. All of this was a fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 53:1-7.

The Roman soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and pressed it onto Jesus' head, draped a cape around His bleeding shoulders, and put a rod into His hand like a scepter. Then all took a knee before Him and hailed Him as *"King of the Jews"* (Matthew 27:29). Atonement was at the heart of Jesus' mission. Jesus died for everyone, but crucifixion was the most torturous of deaths. In that brutal yet holy moment, the veil in the Temple that had blocked people from entering the Holy of Holies was tore from top to bottom, as if God Himself had reached down and torn it in half. Jesus carried the weight of the world on His shoulders; we were the burden laid on His heart.

The glory of the cross is not found in the blood-stained timber; it is found in what Jesus accomplished for us that day. His death was the key that unlocked hope for the entire world and ushered in a new covenant with humanity. Hebrews 9:15-17 details how Jesus' death brought about a new testament. The Scripture likens this to the reading of a will and the distribution of an inheritance. **The will of God was to distribute the gift of salvation to everyone who would believe and obey the gospel.** But just as children do not receive their inheritance until their parents die, for God's will to take effect, there had to be the death of the testator, or the one who had written the will. Jesus was *"they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance"* (Hebrews 9:15).

Without Jesus Christ we were sentenced to be slaves to sin. The world loves to proclaim that the sinful life is a life of freedom. It is often less painful to accept the shackles and tread one more time around in a circle pushing the devil's millstone. But Jesus came to change all that. We who once were servants to sin are not set free. And Jesus didn't just free us, He also adopted us as His sons and daughters. Now we are heirs of that eternal inheritance Jesus' death purchased for us. We are not just set free and turned loose into the world to fend for ourselves. We are adopted as children of the King, brought into His kingdom, and will one day be seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

When the mob came for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, He surrendered willingly, yet they bound His hands. He did not raise a hand to defend Himself. He did not run from the flogging post. Bands of love for us held Jesus to the cross far more firmly than any nails ever could. How much gratitude should we feel toward the one who was bound to make us free? All He asks in return is for us to accept that freedom. **How heartbreaking it must be for Jesus to have gone through all that and still have so many people reject the freedom and grace He gives.**

Jesus was brave enough to be bound so we could be free. Will you be brave enough to leave the chains behind and walk through the prison gates He has broken?