

Simon and the Mourners

Sermon 90 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 27:32; Luke 23:26-31

I. Simon of Cyrene -- Matthew 27:32

A. Simon Himself

It is likely that Simon was a black man – who was a convert to Judaism and was in Jerusalem for the Passover. It is also possible he now lived in Jerusalem.

- It was God who just happened to have Simon there that morning.
- It was God who had the Roman soldier pick him from out of the crowd.
- It was God who worked in Simon's heart – and turned him from an unwilling man forced into a horrible distasteful task – into a willing follower of our Lord.

Simon became a living example of what you and I must do.

Luke 9:23 -- Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 14:27 -- And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

B. Simon and His Sons

Mark 15:21 -- Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.

Alexander and Rufus – what is their significance?

Romans 16:13 -- Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Church tradition says Alexander and Rufus were well-known Christians in the early church.

II. The Mourning Women Luke 23:27-31

A. Verse 27 -- This is the first touch of tenderness we have seen

These “daughters of Jerusalem” were not followers of Christ, but they were touched by the awful sight and the great injustice.

Most of the citizens of Jerusalem were not part of the mob crying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him.”

B. Verses 28-30 – The catastrophe Foretold

Psalm 127:3 – Children are a heritage from the Lord.

It's a horrible thing to suffer – but how much worse when you watch your children suffer.

70 AD was the judgment of God upon the people who claimed to be the people of God but in reality – no longer were.

John the Baptist warned the unbelieving Jewish leaders not to even begin to say to yourself – we Abraham's children – for God is able to raise up these stones to be children for Abraham.

For later study -- Romans chapters 9-11

Galatians 3:28-29 -- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

C. Verse 30 is a direct reference is to Hosea 10:8.

Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, Shall be destroyed.
The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars;
They shall say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!"

The immediate context is the Israelites going into captivity in Assyria because of idolatry.

As Christ quotes it here – it is obvious that the Assyrian Captivity itself does not fulfill the prophecy and the captivity becomes a type of – 70 AD – because of their rejection of Christ.

And 70 AD is the type for the great antitype – the Final Judgment of all of mankind who reject God and His Christ. **Revelation 6:15-16**

D. Verse 31 – The Proverb