

Taken Down from the Cross

Sermon 97 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 27:57-61; John 19:31-37

I. The Hypocrisy of man -- John 19:31

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 -- “If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, **and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,**²³ **his body shall not remain overnight on the tree,** but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you *as* an inheritance; **for he who is hanged is accursed of God.**

Galatians 3:13 -- Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us** (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”).

II. The Cruelty of Man John 19:32

The repentant thief had his legs broken.

1. He was still alive after Jesus had died.
2. The words of Christ were fulfilled, “**Today**, you shall be with me in paradise.”
3. Salvation does not exempt us from suffering.

One thief went to be with the Lord.

One thief went to Hell.

III. Not a Bone was Broken of the Lamb of God - John 19:33-37

A. He Freely Gave His Life, No One Took It v. 33-34

B. This Fulfilled Scripture v. 35-37

1. Not a bone was broken

Exodus 12:46 – regarding the Passover lamb – do not break a bone.

Numbers 9:12 -- They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it.

Psalms 34:20 -- He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

2. Pierced -- **Zechariah 12:10, 13:1**

Rev. 1:7 -- Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, **even they who pierced Him.** And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.

IV. Timid Disciples made Brave – John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:57-60

Mark 15:42-45 -- Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, **coming and taking courage,** went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.

⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, **he granted the body to Joseph.**