

**Mark 15:22-32 — “Christ Crucified: The First 3 Hours — Insults Heaped Upon the King”**

The cross stands as the focal point of the Christian faith. Without the cross the Bible is an enigma, and the Gospel of salvation is an empty hope (James Montgomery Boice).

Christ is to us just what the cross is. All that Christ was in heaven or on earth was put into what He did there... You do not understand Christ till you understand His cross. (PT Forsyth)

Every time we look at the cross, Christ seems to say to us, “I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.” Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size. (John Stott)

*Background to Mark 15:22ff*

- **Mark has endeavored to show Jesus is the “Suffering Servant” who has come from God to die *as the substitute* to save His people.**
- The very theme of our message & hope is the **cross** of Jesus Christ! Our savior hung on a cross! He loved us to the cross! He saved us on the cross! He propitiated God’s anger toward us on the cross! Our theme, our song, our praise, our joy *is Christ & Him crucified!*

**THESIS** — This account narrates the first 3 hours on the cross. The main theme of vv.22-32 is the insults and the revilings upon the King.

**I. THE 3 SAYINGS DURING THE FIRST 3 HOURS**

- (1) **Father Forgive Them! (Lk 23.34)** - Jesus as *Intercessor/Priest*
- (2) **Today you’ll be with me in Paradise (Lk 23.43)** - Jesus as *Savior & Lord*
- (3) **Woman behold your son ... son behold your Mother (John 19.26)** - Jesus as *Loving provider, protector, king, father of love.*

**II. THE 3 GROUPS INSULTING JESUS (v.27-32)****A. Passers by (29-30)****B. Chief Priests (31-32)****C. Crucified Criminals (32b)****III. THE REPEATED INSULT**

Many passers-by thought that weakness is what kept Jesus on the cross — when in reality it was his strength — **THE STRENGTH OF HIS LOVE FOR HIS FATHER & FOR SINNERS THAT KEPT HIM THERE!**

If Jesus would have come down from the cross...

- if he would have come down - we wouldn't be saved — ***but he stayed!***
- if he would have come down - Prophetic scriptures would not have been fulfilled — ***so he stayed!***
- if he would have come down - Jesus' own testimony/promises would not have been fulfilled - ***so he stayed!***
- if he would have come down - no atonement for sinners would have been made - ***so he stayed!!***
- if he would have come down - he would have pleased men but disobeyed God (and that's sin) — ***so he stayed!***
- if he would have come down - then you would have no substitute to take, absorb, quench & satisfy God's full and infinite wrath in your stead — ***so he stayed!***
- if he would have come down - they all STILL would not have believed (because faith is not an evidence issue but a moral, heart, God-producing work) — ***so he stayed!***

**God did not spare his own Son — but God delivered Him over for us all — How will God not also WITH HIM freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)**

He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all; how shall he not with him freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). How is it imaginable that God should withhold, after this, spirituals or temporals, from his people? How shall he not call them effectually, justify them freely, sanctify them thoroughly, and glorify them eternally? How shall he not clothe them, feed them, protect and deliver them? Surely if he would not spare his own Son one stroke, one tear, one groan, one sigh, one circumstance of misery, it can never be imagined that ever he should, after this, deny or withhold from his people, for whose sakes all this was suffered, any mercies, any comforts, any privilege, spiritual or temporal, which is good for them. (John Flavel)

**STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED**

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
See Him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;  
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!  
'Tis the long expected prophet,  
David's Son, yet David's Lord;  
By His Son, God now has spoken,  
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Ye who think of sin but lightly,  
Nor suppose the evil great,  
Here may view its nature rightly,  
Here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the Sacrifice appointed!  
See Who bears the awful load!  
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,  
Son of Man, and Son of God.

Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,  
Was there ever grief like His?  
Friends through fear His cause disowning,  
Foes insulting his distress:  
Many hands were raised to wound Him,  
None would interpose to save;  
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him  
Was the stroke that Justice gave.

Here we have a firm foundation,  
Here the refuge of the lost.  
Christ the Rock of our salvation,  
Christ the Name of which we boast.  
Lamb of God for sinners wounded!  
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
Who on Him their hope have built.

**PRAYER MEETING GUIDE:**

1. PRAYER — walking thru the building and pray in locations where ministry takes place:

*Five Locations To Focus On:*

1. **SANCTUARY** — balcony, pews, pulpit area, singing/musician area (Psalm 100)
2. **CONFERENCE ROOM** — catechism (Matt 19:14)
3. **LOWER LEVEL** - at tables where catechism, prayer meeting (Acts 2.42-47)
4. **NURSERY** — all the CFBC kids/young kids / teachers/ parents (Ephesians 6:4)
5. **GEOFF'S OFFICE** — studying, sermon prep, counseling, intercessory prayer (2 Tim 2:15)

*\*\*We will meet in the sanctuary at 8:25 to sing & close in prayer.*

**SEE THE DESTINED DAY ARISE!**

See the destined day arise!  
 See a willing sacrifice!  
 Jesus, to redeem our loss,  
 Hangs upon the shameful cross;  
 Jesus, who but You could bear  
 Wrath so great and justice fair?  
 Every pang and bitter throe,  
 Finishing Your life of woe?

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**  
**Lamb of God for sinners slain!**  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**  
**Jesus Christ, we praise Your name!**

Who but Christ had dared to drain,  
 Steeped in gall, the cup of pain  
 And with tender body bear

Thorns and nails and piercing spear?  
 Slain for us, the water flowed,  
 Mingled from Your side with blood;  
 Sign to all attesting eyes  
 Of the finished sacrifice.

Holy Jesus, grant us grace  
 In that sacrifice to place  
 All our trust for life renewed,  
 Pardoned sin, and promised good.  
 Grant us grace to sing Your praise  
 'Round Your throne through endless days,  
 Ever with the sons of light:  
 "Blessing, honor, glory, might!"

**GRACE THAT IS GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN!**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
 Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
 Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured—  
 There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

**Grace, grace, God's grace,**  
**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;**  
**Grace, grace, God's grace,**  
**Grace that is greater than all our sin!**

Sin and despair, like the sea-waves cold,  
 Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
 Grace that is greater— yes, grace untold—  
 Points to the Refuge, the mighty Cross.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
 Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
 All who are longing to see His face,  
 Will you this moment His grace receive?