

Matthew 27:27-54

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if

he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eli, Eli,* ^[c] *lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). ^[d]

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and ^[e] went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

The Cross of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The cross of Jesus is offensive.

Paul calls it a stumbling block. This word comes from the Greek word “skandalon” which meant a trap or a snare. It came to mean something that trips a person up and causes them to fall. We get the English word “scandal” from this word. To the Jews, the cross was a scandal! They could not conceive of the Messiah being nailed to a cross! They literally stumbled over the cross!

We hide our scandals, yet the scandalous cross was seen by everyone. They were offended by who Jesus was. They mocked him and spat at him. They made him a crown of thorns. They mockingly referred to Jesus as king of the Jews.

The Cross of Jesus is foolishness.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Paul uses tells us that the Greeks considered the cross to be “foolishness”. This word comes from the Greek word “moria”, which gives us the English word “moron”. The sophisticated Greeks looked at a Savior dying on a cross and they declared it to be “moronic foolishness”.

Why can't he save Himself? Let's see if Elijah will come save him.

The Cross of Jesus looked like complete failure.

Consider this... The crucifixion was a drawn out parade & execution. The reason was two fold.

#1 The Romans wanted to show people the result of crossing their emperor and false god, Julius Caesar. They very publicly paraded and executed to stop others from rebelling.

#2 The parade offered time for anyone with information to approach a Roman Soldier and testify to them and offer proof of the innocence of the one being marched to Golgatha.

No one testified on Jesus' behalf. Think about that.

Not a single disciple.

Not Lazarus who he raised from the dead.

Not the Leper he restored.

Not the woman with the issue of blood.

Not the paralyzed man lowered through the roof.

Not Nicodemus who heard straight from Jesus how to be in God's Kingdom.

Not the woman caught in the act of adultery.

Not the demoniac.

None of those who tasted his wedding wine or the fish and bread he miraculously multiplied.

The prophet Isaiah told us the messiah would be ...Like one from whom people hide their faces.

Some leader He is, the Pharisees thought. No one is with Him...

Offensive, foolish, failure...

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The cross of Jesus Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The Power

He had the POWER to lay down His life and the POWER to raise it up again.

He holds the POWER over death, hell and the grave.

He said after the resurrection – All POWER in heaven & earth is given to me.

I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for it is the POWER of God unto salvation.

The Wisdom

In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom.

It looked foolish on crucifixion day, but it looked brilliant on resurrection day.

Let's look one final time at this scripture...

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 but we preach Christ crucified...

Let's never stop preaching Christ and His cross.