

The Murder of Jesus

Matthew 27:27-44

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Shepherd's Community Church

The Ignorant Wicked (27-37)

(Isaiah 1:18; Genesis 3:18; Galatians 3:13; Revelation 19:15; Mark 15:21, 23; Psalm 22:14; John 19:19-22)

The Knowing Wicked (38, 44)

(Luke 23:39-41; 2 Corinthians 2:15)

The Capricious Wicked (39-40)

(Psalm 22:7; Isaiah 53:10-11)

The Religious Wicked (41-43)

(Psalm 22:8, Matthew 23:27-28; 27:54; John 5:39-40; 8:44; Luke 23:34, 42-43; 47; Acts 2:22-24, 41; 6:7)

The Cross of Christ

The cross is central to the gospel precisely because of its graphic message, including the awfulness of sin, the profundity of God's wrath against sin, and the efficacy of Jesus' work in crucifying the old man (Romans 6:6). A. W. Tozer wrote,

The cross is the most revolutionary thing ever to appear among men.

The cross of Roman times knew no compromise; it never made concessions. It won all its arguments by killing its opponent and silencing him for good. It spared not Christ, but slew Him the same as the rest. He was alive when they hung Him on that cross and completely dead when they took Him down six hours later. That was the cross the first time it appeared in Christian history. . .

The cross effects its ends by destroying one established pattern, the victim's, and creating another pattern, its own. Thus it always has its way. It wins by defeating its opponent and imposing its will upon him. It always dominates. It never compromises, never dickers nor confers, never surrenders a point for the sake of peace. It cares not for peace; it cares only to end its opposition as fast as possible.

With perfect knowledge of all this, Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." So the cross not only brings Christ's life to an end, it ends also the first life, the old life, of every one of His true followers. It destroys the old pattern, the Adam pattern, in the believer's life, and brings it to an end. Then the God who raised Christ from the dead raises the believer and a new life begins. This, and nothing less, is true Christianity. . .

We must do something about the cross, and one of two things only we can do – flee it or die upon it.

(A. W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous*, 61-63)

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:35-37).

John MacArthur, *The Gospel According to the Apostles*, 205