



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Crucifixion of the Eternal King!

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Matthew 27:32-37

“And as they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross. 33) And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, 34) they gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. 35) And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots; 36) and sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. 37) And they put up above His head the charge against Him which read, ‘THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.’” (NASB)

“FOR DOGS HAVE SURROUNDED ME; A BAND OF EVILDOERS HAS ENCOMPASSED ME; THEY PIERCED MY HANDS AND MY FEET. I CAN COUNT ALL MY BONES. THEY LOOK, THEY STARE AT ME; THEY DIVIDE MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.”

PSALM 22:16-18

Did Jesus bear His cross most of the way to Golgotha? Was the man who bore Christ’s cross from a capitol? What happened to Simon the Cyrenian after he carried Jesus’ cross? Where was the place of Jesus’ death? What was the wine mixed with gall and why did Jesus refuse it? Why did the soldiers cast lots for Jesus’ clothing? Who was Pilate upsetting by giving the truthful reason for Jesus’ execution above His head? Why did God choose such a painful death for His Son?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 23: MATTHEW 27:38-44 *THE KING SAVED OTHERS, BUT NOT HIMSELF!*
- MARCH 1: MATTHEW 27:45-53 *THE KING’S TRIUMPHANT END!*

John had watched all the mock trials from Annas to Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin, to Pilate, then to Herod and back to Pilate. He is the only writer who gives all four of the statements Jesus made in witnessing to His king (Jn. 18, 19). When Pilate asked Jesus, *“Are you the King of the Jews?”* Jesus asked him a question to help him discern the condition of his heart, *“Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?”* Pilate was not interested in examining his heart, so he said, *“I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?”* Jesus then gets to the core issue regarding the fact that His kingdom is the Kingdom of Heaven and the heart; *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”* Pilate wanted more information, *“So You are a king?”* Jesus now skillfully invites Pilate to commit to Him, the King of truth, *“You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”* Pilate, caring more for his job than his soul, and wanting to avoid that commitment said, *“What is truth?”* and went out. This unwillingness to commit to Christ decides his destiny! Later, when Pilate hears that Jesus claimed to be the *“Son of God,”* he became more afraid and asked Jesus, *“Where are You from?”* But Jesus is silent. When Pilate claims authority to release or crucify Him, Jesus deals with Pilate’s greatest problem, his sin, *“You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin.”* Knowing the truth, he still condemned the innocent.

“HE WHO JUSTIFIES THE WICKED AND HE WHO CONDEMNS THE RIGHTEOUS ARE BOTH ALIKE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD’

PROVERBS 17:15

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER FOR OUR LEADERS – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON –BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

The Crucifixion of the Eternal King!

I. THE PROCESSION OF THE KING MT. 27:32-33

Since the trial finished around 6:00AM and Christ is not crucified until 9:00AM, it seems that William Barclay was correct when he wrote, “The criminal was led to the scene of crucifixion by as long a route as possible, so that as many as possible might see him and take warning from the grim sight.”¹ Most likely, Jesus carried His 200 to 300 pound cross all of the winding procession through the streets of Jerusalem because John only mentions Jesus carrying His cross (Jn. 19:17). “*And as they were coming out*” of the city, “*they laid hold of one Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus*” (Lk. 23:26). It seems that this man from a foreign capitol, who may have been black, was later saved with his entire family (Mk. 15:21, Acts 11:20, 13:1, Rom. 16:13). Though the Romans traditionally did not allow mourning for criminals, among the “*great multitude*” following the procession were “*women who were mourning and lamenting Him*” (Lk. 23:27). Jesus probably gave His last public address to these women as Simon took His cross, “*Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children*” (Lk. 23:28-31). His warning in this final address proves that He was much more concerned about others than Himself, even to the end! The place of His crucifixion seems to be “Gordon’s Calvary,” just outside the walls on the city’s North side.

“THEY ALSO GAVE ME GALL FOR MY FOOD, AND FOR MY THIRST THEY GAVE ME VINEGAR TO DRINK.”

PSALM 69:21

II. THE PROPHECY OF THE KING MT. 27:34-36

“*Gall*” means “bitter,” and Mark 15:23 provides the essential ingredient of the “gall” as “*myrrh*.” It was a narcotic to deaden some of the pain involved with the

excruciating torture of the cross. The intent of the soldiers in giving the potion to the condemned was not only to deaden their pain but to keep them from struggling violently as the nails were driven into their hands and feet. As Jesus had already told His Father (Mt.26:39) and Peter in the garden (Jn. 18:11), He was committed to drink the full cup of suffering His Father had given Him. Though “*He was unwilling to drink*” the stupefying wine, He had tasted it in order to fulfill the prophecy. After stripping Him of all His clothing, they nailed Jesus to the cross. When raised up, as His cross slid with a thud into the hole, with the screaming pain came the fulfillment of Ps. 22:14, “*I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.*” The four soldiers crucifying Christ, “*took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier,*” evidently by tearing it at the seams. “*Now the tunic was seamless,*” so they agreed, “*Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be*” (Jn. 19:23-24). The agony and nakedness upon the cross was prophesied by David about 1000 years earlier in Ps. 22.

“BUT I AM A WORM, AND NOT A MAN, A REPROACH OF MEN AND DESPISED BY THE PEOPLE.”

PSALM 22:6

III. THE PERSON OF THE KING MT. 27:37

“*Pilate wrote an inscription also and put it on the cross. And it was written, JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS*” (Jn. 14:19). It was written in all three languages for all nations, Hebrew for the Jews, Latin for the Romans and Greek for all throughout the empire. The chief priests wanted it changed to read, “*He said, I am the King of the Jews.*” But “*Pilate answered, What I have written, I have written*” (Jn. 14:21-22). Pilate was committed to the title, but not the Eternal King!

¹ William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, vol. 2 (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001), 427.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you “of the truth” so that you hear His voice and submit to His sovereignty as your King?
- 2) Have you ever considered the terrible judgment upon sin taken by Christ as He died on the cross to atone for yours?
- 3) Is your commitment like Pilate’s, only to proper titles, but not to Jesus Christ as your Eternal King?