



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The King Saved Others, but Not Himself!

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### Matthew 27:38-44

*“At that time, two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. 39) And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, 40) and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ 41) In the same way, the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders were mocking Him, and saying, 42) ‘He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe Him. 43) HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET HIM DELIVER Him now, IF HE TAKES PLEASURE IN HIM; for He said, “I am the Son of God.”’ 44) And the robbers also who had been crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him.” (NASB)*

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“IT WAS THE POWER OF LOVE, NOT NAILS,  
THAT KEPT HIM THERE.”  
ROBERT MOUNCE

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What was the singular statement that Jesus continued to say on the cross? How is Jesus humbled even in the placement of His cross? Were those passing by people who had praised Him in the Triumphal Entry just a few days earlier? Why did the leaders never speak directly to Jesus on the cross? Did Jesus know ahead of time that such immense and cruel suffering was coming? Who was saved amidst the arrogant insults?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MARCH 1: MATTHEW 27:45-53 *THE KING'S TRIUMPHANT END!*
- MARCH 9: PASTOR RANDY GILBERT *PASTOR OF FAITH LANDMARKS MINISTRIES*

There was nothing lacking from the cup of suffering which Jesus Christ drank upon the cross. His sufferings included the premeditated betrayal of one of the most trusted disciples, the desertion of all the disciples, the abuse in the false trial by Annas the former High Priest, the unjust trial and unlawful sentence handed down by the Sanhedrin, the assault and battery following that trial, the betrayal and deceitful accusations before Pilate, the hasty trial and mockery by Herod and his soldiers, the intensified perjury and political posturing before Pilate, the reversal and hostility of the fickle crowds, the lethal scourging and brutal mocking by Pilate's protection unit, the outrageous sentence of legal murder through crucifixion after continuously being proven and pronounced innocent, the long procession of public shame as He bore His cross through the streets of Jerusalem and finally the agony of nails being driven through His hands and feet and the excruciating pain and shame of being suspended by nails, naked before a jeering crowd! As the merciless executioners prepare for the finality of His death by dividing His garments among them and casting lots for the last valuable piece of clothing He possesses, an amazing petition is proclaimed from His lips. It is the only intercession that Jesus repeated over and over upon the cross according to the imperfect tense of the verb *“was saying,”* in Luke 23:34. As the soldiers, the people, the leaders and even the criminals hanging with Him heaped up the mighty wrath of God against themselves with their incessant mocking, the Savior's perpetual intercession was, *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* While almost all were malicious against Him, He pleaded for mercy upon them!

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“AS SOON AS THE BLOOD OF THE GREAT SACRIFICE  
BEGAN TO FLOW, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST BEGAN TO  
INTERCEED FOR SINNERS.”  
J. C. RYLE

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### BIBLE STUDIES

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

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

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

# Virginia

## The King Saved Others, but Not Himself!

### I. THE PERSECUTION BY THE POPULACE MT. 27:38-40

It was with scorn and derision that Christ was hung between the robbers to present Him to the populace as though He was guilty of similar crimes and central in association between them as their leader! “*And He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors*” (Isaiah 53:12). To add to His shame, the crucifixion was on a hill not far from Jerusalem near the intersection of major roads going in and around the city. This constant flow of traffic would have included those who, earlier in the week had shouted His praises in the triumphal entry, no doubt hoping that He would deliver them from the Romans. Now that Jesus was being hung as a criminal, they consider Him an imposter. “*And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself!’*” They were twisting the Jesus’ words when he cleansed the temple the first time. He had said, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*” (Jn. 2:19). Of course, the destruction of the temple of His body is occurring before their very eyes! They repeat Satan’s temptation, “*If you are the Son of God*” (Mt. 4:6), “*come down from the cross.*” These unbelievers attack who He is!

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“NOTHING TORTMENTS A MAN WHEN IN PAIN MORE THAN MOCKERY.” C. H. SPURGEON

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### II. THE PERVERSION BY THE PRIESTS MT. 27:41-43

Those of the Sanhedrin who have been up all night in their unlawful trial of Jesus Christ are still unrelenting in their attacks, led by the “*chief priests.*” In hatred, deprecation, and possibly some in fear, these religious and political leaders only address the people and one another as they mock their Messiah. They now recognize

His miracles, “*He saved others,*” in order to taunt Him, “*He cannot save Himself.*” His being Savior was the essence of the meaning of His name (Mt. 1:21). Though they mock in disbelief, what they are saying rings true. “*He cannot save Himself*” because He will not go against His Word, and He is “*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8). Then they revile the statement nailed above His head, “*He is the king of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him.*” Yet they did not believe the greater miracle of His resurrection three days later! Unwittingly, these debased theologians even quote the primary Messianic Psalm prophesying His agonizing death, “*HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET HIM DELIVER HIM NOW, IF HE TAKES PLEASURE IN HIM*” (22:8). In fact the previous verse is describing them perfectly, “*All who see me sneer at me, they wag their head, saying,*” (22:7). What these wicked leaders refuse to believe is the reality of His statement, “*I am the Son of God.*” Though unbelieving, they fulfill God’s Word!

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“I KNOW NOT THAT, SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD, THERE EVER WAS A MORE REMARKABLE AND STRIKING EXAMPLE OF FAITH.”  
JOHN CALVIN (ON THE BELIEVING THIEF ON THE CROSS)

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### III. THE PARADISE FOR ONE PRODIGAL MT. 27:44

Initially both of the robbers hanging with Christ “*were casting the same insult at Him.*” But one repented and said to the other, “*We are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.*” He recognized his sin and the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Then he said to the King, “*Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.*” He is the only one who truly recognized Jesus as the King while He hung upon the cross! Jesus said to him, “*Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise*” (Lk. 23:40-43). Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone! Paradise cannot possibly be earned by good works (Eph. 2:8-9).

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you love Jesus Christ because He first loved you and gave His life for you on the cross?
- 2) Have you ever admitted your sin and it’s just penalty and turned from it to receive Jesus as your King?
- 3) Are you depending on your good works, baptism, etc. rather than the finished work of Christ upon the cross for Paradise?