

A Day That Changed Lives

I. Amazing Things Happened on Crucifixion Day

1. Human judges condemned the Judge of the universe, Mt.27:11
 - Creatures crucified Creator – Mt.27:12-14
 - Giver of life gave His life to save us – Mt.27:15-23
 - He gave His life for the sheep – Jn.10:11

2. Nature reacted to His sacrifice – Mt.27:45...

- Sun turned dark, 51
- Veil of temple split, 51
- Earthquake, 51
- Tombs opened, some dead arose (after)...

53

3. While on cross, Lord reacted to His enemies

- Did He call on God to curse them?
- Did He hope they reap as they sowed?
 - No: something awesome –
 - He did not pray that God would take Him down from cross.
 - He prayed for their forgiveness.
Lk.23:34
 - He did not threaten retaliation.
Lk.23:35... 1 Pt.2:23
 - He trusted His Father. Lk.23:46

I. Amazing Things Happened on Crucifixion Day

II. The Crucifixion Changed Hearts

Judas, Mt.27:1-5

- He had been with Jesus publicly / privately
 - If anyone knew a flaw in His character...
 - If anyone needed to find a flaw...
 - Instead, his dying speech declares his victim's innocence
- Judas loved money more than he loved Jesus?
 - Did he think Jesus would escape as He had done before...leaving Judas with his prize?
 - His remorse drove him to despair (Mt.27:5)

Pharisees, Lk.16:14

- Illustrates 1 Tim.6:10
- Money is like a brick...
- Greed destroys
- Learn from Pharisees: do not underestimate the powerful pull of the love of money...

Simon of Cyrene, Mk.15:21

- Cyrene: large city in Libya; many Jews settled there. Modern Tripoli.



Simon of Cyrene, John 19:17

- Compelled – Mt.5:41
- Mark writes ~ 30 years after this day; implies Simon tarried at crucifixion . . .
 - He must have been deeply impressed by Lord's behavior on cross
 - If so, then Simon became a voluntary bearer of the cross, Mt.16:24
 - Simon led family to become disciples
 - Cf. Josh.24:15. Ro.16:13.

Penitent robber, Lk.23:39-43

- Mt.27:44, both blasphemed Him; **one repented**
- Lk.23:40-41, one robber answered the other
 - Many turn away in pain or tragedy – ct. Lk.23:42-43
- Mk.2:10, power on earth to forgive sins...
- Mercy! Not only pardon, but paradise

Centurion, Lk.23:47

- His job: crucify three men
- He became increasingly impressed with the 'middle Man'
 - Prayed for His tormentors (Lk.23:34)
 - Prayed to heavenly Father (Lk.23:46)
 - Saw earthly wonders (earthquake, darkness)
- Righteous, Mk.15:39, 'son of God'
 - Dn.3:25

Curious Spectators, Lk.23:48

- 'Seeing'
 - Spectators came to see a show and left with feelings of woe
 - God's 'sign language' convicted them...
- Beat their breasts. 18:13
 - Later bore fruit, Ac.2:37-41

Supreme Court Judges, Jn.19:38-42

- Joseph of Arimathea, 38. Mt.27:57
 - Mk.15:43, now filled with courage
 - Mk.15:46, wrapped body in linen....
 - Lk.23:50-51, member of Sanhedrin...
 - Jn.19:38, fear of Jews; secret disciple of Jesus...
 - Because of crucifixion, grew in courage
...asked Pilate for His body

Supreme Court Judges, Jn.19:38-42

- Joseph, 38. Mt.27:57
- Nicodemus, Jn.19:39-40, progressive faith...
 - 3:1-21, confessed Jesus' heavenly origin
 - 7:50-52, defended Jesus in the council
 - 19:39-40, brought about 100 lbs. of myrrh and aloes

Peter, Jn.21:15-18... martyr

- We can't fix time of his martyrdom
- It is assigned to every year between 64-69

Lord's half-brothers, Ac.1:14

- Jn.7:4-5, unbelievers, openly criticized His work
- Jn.19:25-26, only His mother stood by His cross... (Lk.2:35)
- Ac.1:13-14, His brothers are disciples
- 1 Co.9:5 . . . 15:7

- After men had done their worst, God transformed it into the greatest day in history
- He lives...