

# The Heart of God in the Cross of Christ

(John 19:16-37)

Today in our Gospel of John sermon series (the Sunday before Easter) we arrive at what is surely **the** most familiar event in the Bible: the crucifixion of Christ. This is a story we have read, heard described in sermons and songs, and discussed more times than we could count. The big risk is that we might think, 'I know all about this,' and turn a deaf ear to the truth. To guard against that, ask God for the grace this morning to help you see with fresh eyes what the cross reveals about His heart.

**The cross of Jesus shows us that God's heart is:**

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ (16-22).

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ (23-25a).

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ (25b-27).

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ (28-37).

**Look at the cross of Jesus, see the heart of God, and give Him *your* heart.**

## *Lagniappe:* **The final words of Christ**

The gospels record seven “words” or “sayings” by Jesus during His crucifixion. Scholars dispute the order of all but the final three of these statements.

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”  
(Luke 23:34)

“Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”  
(Luke 23:43)

“Woman, behold your son... “Behold, your mother!”  
(John 19:26, 27)

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”  
(Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

“I am thirsty.”  
(John 19:28)

“It is finished!”  
(John 19:30)

“Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit”  
(Luke 23:46)

### **Return the Cross to Golgotha**

I simply argue that the cross be raised again  
at the center of the market place as well as on the steeple of the church.  
I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified  
in a cathedral between two candles,  
but on a cross between two thieves;  
on a town garbage heap;  
at a crossroad of politics so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title  
in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek ...  
and at the kind of place where cynics talk smut,  
and thieves curse and soldiers gamble.  
Because that is where He died, and that is what He died about.  
And that is where Christ's men ought to be, and what church people ought to be about.

*George MacLeod*