

“Behold the Merciful Crucified King”

Luke 23:23-49

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Luke’s reason for writing: “³it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. Luke 1:3-4

“Before we can see the cross as something done for us, we must see it as something done by us.” John Stott

1) Jesus is merciful to the cross-bearer (26-31)

–Isaiah 50:6- I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

–Isaiah 52:14-15a: As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations.

“To weep over the dying Savior is to wet the surgeons’ knife with tears. To weep over the Lord Jesus as he goes to the cross is to weep over that which is the subject of the highest joy that heaven and earth have known.” – C. H. Spurgeon

Jesus is merciful because never asks us to carry a cross where he isn’t leading us and hasn’t already been.

“I have never heard anyone say, “The really deep lessons of my life have come through times of ease and comfort.” But I have heard strong saints say, “Every significant advance I have ever made in grasping the depths of God’s love and growing deep with him has come through suffering.” – John Piper

2) Jesus is merciful to the criminal. (32-43)

“the very word ‘cross,’ let [it] be far removed from not only the bodies of Roman citizens but even from their thoughts, their eyes, and their ears.” Cicero

“So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, **42**“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.**43**He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” **44**And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.” Matthew 27:41-44

A) Jesus is merciful in saving the criminal.

B) Jesus is merciful because he put the criminal in a position to see his deep need of the Savior.

“He who died for his enemies, will he refuse those, those whose desire of soul is towards him? Whatever may be wished for in an all-sufficient comforter is all to be found in Christ.” Richard Sibbes

3) Jesus is merciful to the centurion. (44-49)

John 10:14-15, 18 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

A) Jesus is merciful in saving the centurion

B) Jesus is merciful because he put the centurion in a position to see the strength of the Savior.