

**Jason Huffman**  
**Matthew 27:32-66**  
**4/17/24**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think are people's first thoughts when they think of the cross?  
Biblical, emotional, intellectual or mixed?
  2. Why is it important God predicted the cross in such detail?
  3. Read Romans 8:38-39. How does this relate to Christ and to us in our suffering?
  4. What can we learn from Joseph who few seemed to know but who served in such an important way?
  5. Why was it important for us to know the tomb was sealed?
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**Teaching Notes:**

Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Jesus came to bring forgiveness and take away sin.

Jesus came as the Lamb of God.

And the cross was the way. It still is the way of Christ our King.

**This is the kind of kingdom Jesus brings...**

**...a kingdom of love, of sacrifice and of faith.**

**32** Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. **33** And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, (this is calvary) **34** they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted *it*, He would not drink.

This was something to deaden the senses and ease the pain.

He would not drink it. He felt the full weight of pain for us.

**35** Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

"They divided My garments among them,  
And for My clothing they cast lots." Psalm 22:18

**36** Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. **37** And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

**THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

**Interesting that they say this is an accusation.**

It is actually a proclamation.

**38** Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

**Isaiah 53:12**

And He was numbered with the transgressors,

And He bore the sin of many,  
And made intercession for the transgressors.

**39** And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads **40** and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

**41** Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, **42** “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. **43** He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

**Psalm 22:7** All those who see Me ridicule Me;  
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying* “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

**44** Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. **45** Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

Isaiah 60:2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.

Amos 8:9-10 “And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will make the sun go down at noon, (Sixth hour is noon.) and I will darken the earth in broad daylight; **10** I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, and baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day.”

Darkness was the plague right before the death of the first born, the Passover which Jesus was.

A Roman historian Phlegon mentions darkness & an earthquake.

**46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

**Cried:** (*anaboao*, used only here in the NT) a strong verb indicating powerful emotion or appeal to God.

**Psalm 22:1a** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

I don't see this as a human question, but as a divine statement.

This is a quotation that points to Psalm 22 & His fulfillment of it.

He took our punishment.

The wrath of God was put on Christ as our propitiation.

God doesn't turn His back on us.

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

**47** Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" **48** Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

**49** The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

Mankind just didn't understand the Son of Man even at the end.

**50** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

This was a heroic act of valor. He was not a tragic victim.

*As Jesus said, I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*  
John 10:17-18

At this moment...as **John 19:30** says, it was finished. Paid in full.

**51** Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, **52** and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; **53** and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

From spiritual to physical implications...

This was a supernatural occurrence that we don't fully understand

**54** So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

They had seen a lot and this was different than the rest.

**55** And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, **56** among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

**57** Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. **58** This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

This is quite a step of devotion.

Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

**59** When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, **60** and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. **61** And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

**This was quite a sacrifice for Joseph to give up...  
...but it was only temporary!**

**62** On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, **63** saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' **64** Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

**65** Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." **66** So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

The seal was a rope, overlapping the width of the stone covering the entrance to the tomb. On either side of the doorway, there was a glob of wax securing the rope over the stone. You could not move the rock without breaking the seal.