



The King and His Cross

March 31, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 27:32-50, ³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three

days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”⁴¹ 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.⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.”⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, In Jesus Name! Amen!

The King and His Cross. When we survey history, we see kings and rulers who held the seat of preeminence within their kingdoms and domains of authority. From the Roman Caesars all the way back to the Babylonian Emperors, we read of the Kings who ruled, their stories of struggle and triumph, the conquering and toppling of other nations and kingdoms.

But one thing that all these men have in common is simply this; they are dead and gone. Swept away by the sands of time and the winds of change. Their kingdoms are no more. Their riches are lost to the storms of history. All that is left of them are stories of things long ago but nothing to show for their lives today. Except for one... and His Name is Jesus.

Our King, our Messiah, would not come as other kings would throughout history. While other kings came to rule by way of the sword and power, our King came to rule by way of His Sacrifice and His Cross!

This was a powerfully prophetic day when Christ came into Jerusalem and serves as a reminder to us all as the starting point that launched the week of His Passion as the Christ. The celebration of Passover, which is actually on the week of April 21-27, is the week during which the Lord is celebrated for the deliverance of the Hebrew people from the Bondage of Egypt.

It was on that week that the Blood was applied to the Lintel and the Door Posts found in Exodus 12:21-37. The week of Passover was a week of Victory because just as the Lamb was slain in Exodus 12 and the blood applied to the dwelling places of the Hebrews as a marker for the death angel to pass over; so also was the Lamb of God slain and His blood applied to our account for the forgiveness of Sins.

The blood of the Lamb in Egypt saved the Nation of Israel from destruction; the blood of the Lamb of God in Israel saved mankind from eternal destruction!

And it was from this sacrifice that the Church of Jesus Christ was established in the Earth! Friends, we were called with a holy calling; it is not a mistake that any of us are a part of His Glorious Church!

The Bible tells us that we were called with a Holy Calling according to 2 Timothy 1:9 and that calling upon the Church has not diminished nor waned! Thus, point #1...

1) The Kings of this World sought to destroy the King of Glory, but the King of Glory Overcame Them Through His Cross!

a) Colossians 2:11-15, ¹¹“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of

your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

- b) Church family, The King of Heaven may have been nailed to a cruel cross by the darkness of this present age but that darkness did not wield the power to keep Him upon the Cross!
- c) You see, the Darkness may have thought that it overcame the King of Glory but the Darkness was deceived by Death because even death did not have the last word!
- d) The Lamb of God may have been nailed to a cross but now He is hailed as the Savior of the World!
- e) The World may have cried out to Nail Him but All of Heaven Hails Him as King Eternal!!!! Other kings may have ruled by the sword but Christ rules by the Cross!
- f) Remember, The Kings of this World sought to destroy the King of Glory, but the King of Glory Overcame Them Through His Cross!

2) The Kings of this World may have used the Cross to Silence the Christ of the Church, but Christ used the Cross to Build the Church of Christ!

- a) The Gospel of Saint Matthew 16:15-18, ¹⁵“He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- b) And if Christ is building His Church today then there is no power in Heaven, in Earth, or in Hell that has the power to stop us from accomplishing our mission! May we champion the old clarion call of the church! Onward, Christian Soldiers! Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle, see His banners go!
- c) Some of us today may be bruised, and battered; torn up from the storms and difficulty of life but let me remind you today of the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church at Corinth!
- d) 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, ⁷“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not

destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.”

- e) Church, we may be afflicted but we are not crushed! We may be perplexed but we are not in despair, we may be persecuted but we are not forsaken, we may be struck down but we are not destroyed!
- f) We are the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and this old Gospel Ship has survived too many stormy gales for us to ever fear it to sink! We are going to make it! Onward Christian Soldier!
- g) Remember, The Kings of this World may have used the Cross to Silence the Christ of the Church, but Christ used the Cross to Build the Church of Christ!

3) The Kings of this World may have Ruled by Cruelty, but the King of Heaven Rules Forever More Through His Cross!

- a) The Book of Hebrews 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- b) For the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross... What is the joy set before him? You. His death was for you. His burial was for you. His resurrection was for you. And He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God for you on your behalf! The King of Heaven rules forever more through His Cross!
- c) King Jesus will finish what He started in you! If He is the founder and the perfecter of our faith then He will finish what He started! My challenge to all of us today is simply this... Is Christ ruling in your life through the Cross or are you the one seated upon the throne of your heart?
- d) If you don't know Jesus today or perhaps you would say that you once had a relationship with Christ but life got in the way or sin crept in which knocked you off the path; today is the day to get it right!

(Altar Call)