

INTRO: WHO I WAS

I Timothy 1:16 - Paul calls himself, "the WORST of sinners".

But God used Paul to display his grace as an EXAMPLE to others... so they might believe!

INTRO: WHO I WAS

Romans 5 - We were ALL enemies of God once... but God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died FOR US!

MATTHEW 27:38-44

I. THE CROWD (MATT 27:38-44)

A picture of Christ giving His life for the sins of the CROWD

I. THE CROWD (MATT 27:38-44)

Who is in the crowd?

Two rebels, people passing by, the leaders of the Jews, some Centurions

People from every walk of life!

I. THE CROWD (MATT 27:38-44)

Is the crowd **THANKFUL** for what Jesus is doing for them? No!

They hurl insults and mock Him!

I. THE CROWD (MATT 27:38-44)

Where is Paul? We don't know.

But he's part of the crowd "in spirit",
if not with his bodily presence

ACTS 7:54-60

I. THE CROWD (ACTS 7:54-60)

Stephen says two of the same things that Jesus said from the Cross... an intentional parallel

I. THE CROWD (ACTS 7:54-60)

By Roman law, the CRIMINAL was stripped of their clothing at an execution... but WHOSE cloaks are removed here? (The CROWD is guilty here, not Stephen)

I. THE CROWD (ACTS 7:54-60)

Where is Paul? Guarding the coats!
(Approving of evil). Paul says that
ALL of us were part of the crowd.
This is who we WERE. (But by God's
grace, it's not who we ARE anymore!)

MATTHEW 27:50-54

II. THE CROSS (MATT 27:50-54)

At the **MOMENT** of Jesus' death, the **VEIL**, which separated people from the presence of God, was torn in two!

II. THE CROSS (MATT 27:50-54)

Why would people DIE if they entered God's Presence? SIN

II. THE CROSS (MATT 27:50-54)

The Veil being torn is a visible demonstration of the fact that God had accepted the sacrifice of Jesus as **PAYMENT** for the sin of the world!

II. THE CROSS (MATT 27:50-54)

Matthew points to the response of a pagan Roman Centurion... "Surely this was the Son of God." The implied question is, "What is YOUR response?"

ACTS 9:1-22

II. THE CROSS (ACTS 9:1-22)

Paul goes from being “part of the crowd” to “the chosen instrument of God”!

CONCLUSION: WHO I AM

None of us were physically present at the Cross... but Paul says that if we had been, we'd have been on the side of the CROWD

CONCLUSION: WHO I AM

But Good Friday demonstrates that there is HOPE for the crowd... because Jesus gave His life FOR THE CROWD!

CONCLUSION: WHO I AM

How do we know God **FORGIVES** us?

The **VEIL** was torn in two

CONCLUSION: WHO I AM

Because of the Cross, I am no longer
a part of the crowd... I am a Child of
God!

