

March 19th – God Can Change Anyone

“So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, ‘Truly this Man was the Son of God.’” (Mark 15:39)

The scene of Christ’s crucifixion was horrific. Jesus was flogged by Roman lictors, most likely beaten beyond recognition with a cat-of-nine-tails whip. History tells us that there were many criminals who didn’t survive the pre-crucifixion beating. Jesus survived the flogging, then was forced to carry His crossbeam outside the city to the place called Golgotha (the place of the skull). It was there that He was nailed to a cross and hung between two thieves.

There were several Roman soldiers involved in Christ’s crucifixion. They were witnesses to many of the things that took place of Jesus’ crucifixion Friday. They witnessed the agony of Jesus and the criminals. They also must’ve seen the interaction between Jesus and the criminals, and perhaps even the assurance that Jesus gave to one of the dying thieves. They even witnessed the rapid change of the weather and the earthquake that accompanied Christ’s death.

One of the soldiers was a centurion. That simply means that he had charge over 100 soldiers. Thus, he was a high-ranking soldier within the Roman army. This man had probably seen many crucifixions throughout his military career, but when he witnessed Jesus on the cross something amazing happened. He cried out, “Truly this Man was the Son of God.” The centurion’s confession of faith is proof that God can change anyone at any time. All we must do is surrender our lives to Christ through faith in Jesus.