

“WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED MY LORD?”

Text: John 19:25

INRO: Those who gathered around as Jesus was arrested, tried & executed on the cruel Roman cross represented people from various cultures, backgrounds and attitudes--from all walks of life. Every kind of sin was represented there. Who represented you at the cross of Christ?

I. THERE WERE SINNERS WHO TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE CRUCIFIXION.

- A. The chief priests & elders were driven by envy. Mark 15:10
- B. Judas betrayed Jesus partly because of a love of money, John 12:3-8; Matt. 26:14-16.
- C. The multitudes, who had followed Jesus, had seen His miracles & eaten His bread, were somehow caught up in the moment & worked into a bloodthirsty frenzy by those who were determined to have Jesus crucified. Mark 15:11-15.
- D. Pilate understood Jesus' innocence, but to protect his political position, he compromised the truth to the point of executing an innocent man. John 19:12-16.
- E. The soldiers who carried out the actual crucifixion were just doing another day's work. They had long ago become cruel & hardened. Their mockery & blasphemy seemed as nothing to them. Matthew 27:27-31, 35-36.

II. AT THE CROSS, THERE WERE OTHER SINNERS, WHO WERE NOT ACTIVE IN THE ACTUAL CRUCIFIXION ITSELF.

- A. Simon Peter in weakness & fear & confusion about the unexpected turn of events had 1st followed afar off, then actually denied any knowledge of Jesus. Matt. 26:58, 69-75.
- B. The other apostles also forsook Jesus when he was arrested & crucified. Matt. 26:56.
- C. The condemned thieves reviled Him & numerous spectators watched as Jesus suffered & died. Mk 15:32; Lk 23:35

III. EVEN IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS, THERE WERE A FEW LOYAL FRIENDS WHO STOOD BY, HOWBEIT AT A SAFE DISTANCE.

- A. His mother was there--& the apostle John. John 19:26-27.
- B. Some of the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee were there. John 19:25.
- C. Several unnamed individuals expressed their grief as Jesus was led away to Calvary. LUKE 23:27-28
- D. "Secret disciples" like Nicodemus & Joseph of Arimathaea were there. John 19:38-41.
- E. It needs to be noted that even the best of Jesus' friends were sinners & that their sins & ours helped to make the sacrificial death of Jesus a necessity. Isa. 53:5-6

Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses. (Rom. 4:25). 1 Pet. 2:22-25.

CONCLUSION: Surely you can see yourself somewhere in the crowd. Would you repent like the penitent thief, LK 23:42? Would you confess Him as Thomas did, JN 20:28? Would you be baptized for the remission of your sins as many from the crowd did 50 days later in Acts 2:36-41?

Or as one who has already become a Christian, would you exercise care to remain faithful in your service to Christ, lest by neglect you "crucify afresh the Son of God & put Him to open shame"? Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31.