

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009

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Reading: John ch 19 v 25-27

Subject: The Cross of Jesus

This scene takes place around the cross. Have you ever tried to picture the scene, to be part of the small group standing at the cross?

Sometimes Christians can feel scorn from people around you for your belief. It took real courage for those to stand at the cross while the mob around them rejected Him.

The Lord made this world feel uncomfortable. They rejected Him. The Lord raised Lazarus in public. There were those in the crowd who saw Him command a man that had been dead for four days to come forth from the opened grave and he did. These people then went away and plotted to kill the Lord.

A small group identified themselves with the man who hung upon the cross. Why was He hanging on the cross?

He had never sinned. He could not ever sin. He was the Son of God. The Romans put the charge of the criminal above them on the cross. They found no fault in the Lord so Pilate wrote the statement "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews".

Our sins have been nailed to His cross. The charge God placed on the cross was the sin of the whole world. To be saved you have to identify yourself with the Man of Calvary and say He died for me.

The first person by the cross was Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was at the foot of the cross.

When He was a child, she took Him to the temple and Simeon told her that a sword would pierce her own soul. Surely this must have happened at the cross when she looked upon the Lord. She had the privilege of seeing the Lord grow and witnessed the true character of the Lord Jesus Christ. She knew everything about Him yet she still needed Him as her Saviour.

Have you had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home?

Have you grown up listening to the stories from the Bible. This does not make you a Christian. You have to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your own and personal Saviour.

The mother of James and John Zebedee's children was also there at the cross.

She once asked the Lord if in His kingdom one son could sit on His right hand and the other on the left.

She had to learn that greatness in the kingdom of God is not about seeking position. The Son of God came down not to reign on the throne or reveal His glory but He came to lay down His life. He was going to the cross. Standing at His cross she would have realised this: There can be no Salvation, heaven or glory without the cross.

Mary Magdalene stood by the cross also.

She loved the Lord. She had gone to anoint His body but found the tomb open. She was weeping in the garden when the Lord spoke her name and she recognised Him. Her life was changed. Her love was so intense. She had a wicked past a background many would be ashamed of. The Lord had cast seven demons from her. She was the first person the Lord revealed Himself to.

It does not matter how bad our past is He is able to save you. He is able to save anyone who comes to Him. God is able to forgive you. The love of God and the grace of God reached out to you.

A group of disciples were standing afar off.

Peter had just denied the Lord three times and perhaps the next time he saw the Lord was when He was hanging on the cross.

Have you known the Lord but allowed things in your life to take you away from Him?

Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?

You need to get back to the foot of the cross and identify yourself with Him again.

If you are not saved identify with Him. All these people around the cross needed Christ, They needed a crucified Saviour.