

The Man Who Crucified Christ

Matthew 27:33-54

33. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull).³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it.³⁵ When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots.³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.³⁷ Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.³⁸ Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on His right and one on His left.³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

*MT 27:41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him.⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but He can't save himself! He's 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 rescue Him now if He wants Him, for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "*⁴⁴ *In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him.*

MT 27:45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

MT 27:47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

MT 27:48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave Him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save Him."

MT 27:50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.

MT 27:51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.⁵³

They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

MT 27:54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God!"

The man who crucified Christ was a Roman soldier, a centurion. Beyond that he is a stranger to us. His age, his appearance, his background, his personality, his abilities or his family – of these we know nothing at all. He was a soldier charged with the execution of a death sentence in Jerusalem. He is one of the men who actually crucified Christ. His voice, however, rings down through the centuries. **In the face of the overwhelming and mounting evidence, in the face of Pilate, the Judge, and the priests, he proclaimed his faith in Christ. "Surely he was the Son of God".**

1. CRUCIFYING CHRIST

He endorsed the world's verdict.

Romans 6:6 *"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.*

2. CONSIDERING CHRIST

Never before had he seen such...

Personality

Pain

Power - **THE CALVARY MIRACLES**

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

Three hours of darkness all over the land

The earth shook and the rocks split.

The tombs broke open

The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

3. CONFESSING CHRIST

"Surely He was the Son of God"

Romans 10:9, *"That if you **confess with your mouth**, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

(We sing together "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord")