

Matt. 27:32-37: As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.³³ & when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.³⁵ & when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.³⁶ Then they sat down & kept watch over him there.³⁷ & over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Intro: After a sermon: Is it OK to be angry; I have a hard time hearing how they treated Jesus! It makes me cry.

- Two weeks ago in Matt. 27, we saw Jesus stripped, mocked, & led away to die. Jesus was stripped so that you will be clothed, mocked so that you will be glorified, & crucified so that you will live forever!

- Today, we see Jesus, a broken & beaten man Who can't even carry His own cross, led away to Golgotha – (the Place of a Skull), refusing bitter drink, stripped down naked again, & crucified while soldiers gamble for His clothes, & yet they testify to this truth: Jesus is the King of the Jews. But we all know, He's more than that!

Jesus is King, ruling & accomplishing all things, even as they mock & kill Him! (15 words!)

1. Jesus Couldn't Carry His Cross

Matt 27:32: As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross

Friend: Can God create a rock heavier than He can lift? He created a tree once that was heavier than He could lift!

a. Jesus began carrying His own cross: John 19:16-17: So they took Jesus, & he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

b. What is the significance of Simon carrying Jesus' cross: John Piper/John MacArthur: 1) It shows us how much Jesus suffered! Jesus suffered greatly for you! Jesus loves you! Jesus shows you mercy!

2) Simon of Cyrene reminds us that this is true history: this really happened! There are real names/real people here

3) Simon of Cyrene reminds us that Jesus came to save people from all nations (North Africa)

4) Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross behind Jesus is a beautiful & painful picture of our calling as disciples, according to **Matt. 16:24-25:** If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself & take up his cross & follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- **Hymn:** Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, And there's a cross for me. **Death to self: Spurgeon:** I have now concentrated all my prayers into one, & that one prayer is this, that I may die to self, & live wholly to Him.

5) Simon of Cyrene reminds us that the call to suffer for Jesus is often sudden & costly & seemingly random.

6) Simon's help proved to be both a relief temporarily, but also added suffering because it sustained Jesus to get to the cross & have the horrible experience of crucifixion for us.

7) We know that when Jesus cried out to his heavenly Father in Gethsemane, he was given help. He needed help so that his obedience would not falter. God answered his prayers. These were the hardest hours of Jesus's life.

8) Some argue that it seems Simon became a believer, influenced his family to believe in Jesus, & may have been used by God to help spread the Gospel all around the world: **Mk. 15:21:** Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander & Rufus

- **Rom. 16:13:** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

- **Acts 19:33:** Mentions a man named Alexander

- **Acts 11:20:** men of . . . Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

- **Acts 13:1:** there were in the church at Antioch prophets & teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene [**J. MacArthur:** Out of nowhere, plucked out of the crowd by some witless, cruel Roman soldiers is a man commandeered to carry a cross who becomes the instrument by which the Lord establishes a church in Cyrene, from which the Gospel goes to Antioch, & from Antioch, Paul is sent to proclaim the Gospel to the world. Purposes of God, Providences of God, unfolding at a moment when Jesus looks like a total victim. He is not. He is not.]

2. Jesus Was Killed On Skull Hill

Matt. 27:33: & when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull)

a. Golgotha means Place of a Skull: “Golgotha” transliteration of Aramaic. “Calvary” from Latin “Calva”-(Skull)

b. Jesus suffered outside the city for you! Heb. 13:11-14: For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp & bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

- **Guy Richard:** Just as the animal sacrifices were credited with the sins of the people, killed, & sent outside the camp to hell to be wholly consumed in fire, so Christ was credited with the sins of His people (2 Cor. 5:21), killed, & sent “outside the camp” to hell to be wholly consumed. & the idea is that all this took place on the cross. Jesus went to hell – the place outside of God’s covenantal & evangelical presence – as our sin bearer, & He was wholly consumed in wrath & judgment. It was then that He uttered the well-known cry of dereliction: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34). At that moment, God was treating Him as though He was sin – the sin of all who would ever believe in Him, past, present, & future. Jesus was wholly consumed in fire as the sin-bearing sacrifice, & we are told that this took place “outside the gate.” **GOSPEL!**

3. Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy

Matt. 27:34-36: they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ & when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down & kept watch over him there.

- **Ps. 69:21:** They gave me poison for food, & for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

- **Ps. 22:18:** They divide my garments among them, & for my clothing they cast lots. [All according to plan!]

Josh McDowell: 60 major prophecies Jesus fulfilled. The chances that one man fulfilled just 48 of those prophecies is 10 to the 157th power!

Jesus is King, ruling & accomplishing all things, even as they mock & kill Him!

4. Jesus Was Crucified

Matt. 27:35: & when they had crucified him

Hymn: Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble; Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble; Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Rom. 3:25: whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

Valley Of Vision Prayer: Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy,
Christ was cast off that I might be brought in,
Christ was cut down as an enemy that I might be welcomed as a friend,
Christ was surrendered to hell’s worst that I might attain heaven’s best,
Christ was stripped that I might be clothed,
Christ was wounded that I might be healed,
Christ was thirsty that I might drink,
Christ was tormented that I might be comforted,
Christ was made a shame that I might inherit glory,
Christ entered darkness that I might have eternal light.

My Savior wept that all tears might be wiped from my eyes,
Jesus groaned that I might have endless song,
Jesus endured all pain that I might have unfading health,
Jesus bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory-diadem,
Jesus bowed his head that I might uplift mine,
Jesus experienced reproach that I might receive welcome,
Jesus closed his eyes in death that I might gaze on unclothed brightness,
Jesus expired that I might forever live.

O Father, who spared not Your own Son that You might spare me, all this transfer Your love designed & accomplished
Help me to adore You with my lips and life.

O that my every breath might be ecstatic praise, my every step joyous with delight, as I see my enemies crushed,
Satan baffled, defeated, destroyed, sin buried in the ocean of reconciling blood, hell's gates closed, heaven's portal
open. Go forth, O conquering God, and show me the cross, mighty to subdue, comfort and save.

5. Jesus Is King Of The Jews

Matt. 27:37: & over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

“That's My King!” Who Couldn't Carry His Cross; To The Place Of The Skull Where All Seemed Loss;
The Wrath Of God He Would Exhaust; To Purchase Us At Greatest Cost!

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
He was whipped with a scourging cord
Spit from wicked mouths was on Him poured
Soldiers mocked Him who were bored
He was hated and abhorred
“Crucify!” the crowd had roared
And this – this should leave us totally floored
Like our hearts are cut with a sword
Our anger burns with one accord
For Him Who should be full adored
As heaven's best and great reward
But you were there when they crucified my Lord
It was our sin that left Him gored
It was our sin that killed our Lord
Yet for us all He was abhorred
His love – so great – is our award
So trust Him now and be restored! That's my King! Do you know Him?!

When we come and assemble
It should cause us to tremble
Our Christ they'd disassemble
So badly not even a man did He resemble!

Jesus they would fully demean
The site of Him became obscene
On this man He'd have to lean
To bear His cross Simon Cyrene
To help the Lord he'd intervene
The first to bear his cross we've seen
To follow Christ – this is routine
It's death to self – no in between

All or nothing is the scene
So die to self and on Him lean! That's my King!

They took our Lord outside the gate
The place of the skull to meet His fate
And on the way He'd face the hate
Of those He made and did create
Toward the prize His face was straight
The joy before Him would elate
He'd die and bear sin's wicked freight
Then rise alive as heaven's Great
Now trust the Lord and on Him wait
He'll save your soul and change your state
He'll take away your sin and hate
He'll bear your load and take your weight
So you can enter heaven's gate!

Our glorious Lord suffered crucifixion
An unspeakable physical affliction
But the physical was almost like a fiction
Compared to the spiritual & physical eviction
He endured from His Father's infliction
Of everlasting wrath conviction
So that you would never face eviction
From His eternal love jurisdiction
He'll save from all your dereliction
Free you from every addiction
And sing over you a love song benediction! That's my King!

Of all His clothes our Lord was stripped
Like an animal He was whipped
From His back the flesh was ripped
The sour wine He couldn't have sipped
In chains of wrath His soul was gripped
But He arose and death He flipped
For from its hold He finally slipped
So we forever won't be stripped
In righteous robes we'll be equipped
And by His love forever gripped!

Christ Jesus Died In Blood A Mess
You Couldn't Tell He's Man Digress
He Could Not Bear The Cross-Wood Stress
So Simon Took This Horrible Press
And At The Skull Christ They'd Undress
Divide His Garments For Contests
And Offer Sour Wine Oppress
All This God's Prophets Did Address
All Promises In Christ Are Yes

He Died The King Of Jews No Less
He's Also King Of All Confess
He Rose Alive The World To Bless
By Faith Alone You Will Possess
His Righteousness And Make Progress
In Holiness And Not Transgress
For He's Our All Who Took Our Mess
O'er Him May We Always Obsess! That's my King! (2x)

Jesus is King, ruling & accomplishing all things, even as they mock & kill Him!

Beloved, if He's King & ruling & reigning & accomplishing all thing in this mess, isn't He doing the same now?