

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

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Introduction: The Cross of Christ has a way of exposing men to their true nature.

- A. Paul spoke of the difference between those who are “committed” to the cross and those who are occasionally “contributors”. (**Gal 5:11; 6:12, 14**)
 - 1. The cross of Christ by its nature demands a complete change in men. ‘
(**Lk 9:23-24**)
 - 2. Christianity by its very nature is “radical”, anything less falls short.
 - 3. Those who side with the Lord only when they agree are “ashamed of the cross of Christ”.
- B. The events surrounding the cross show us certain men and women who learned the difference between who they thought they were and who they really are.
 - 1. Those who are exposed to the word of God with a tender heart will “know themselves”. (**Heb 4:12-13**)
 - 2. Sadly, it is common for men to think they have this service but inwardly they have “disconnected” themselves from a honest look at themselves. (**2 Cor 13:5**)
 - 3. The events of the cross brought several face to face with themselves.

I. The Betrayal of Judas

- A. I doubt Judas ever truly saw himself. He may have thought like others: “I am just weak, but I love God”
- B. There are several things he had done for the Lord.
 - 1. He had left home as a believer in Christ. (**Lk 6:13, 16**)
 - 2. He suffered the same things the disciples did.
 - 3. He heard Jesus teachings and taught many himself. (**Matt 10:4-8**)
- C. Judas had compromised his life while doing these good things.
 - 1. He was a thief. (**Jn 12:6**)
 - 2. No doubt he rationalized this sin. Sadly this sin left uncorrected would lead to much bigger things. (**Mk 14:10-11, Gal 6:7-8**)
 - 3. He likely held a false view of the kingdom as the apostles did at this time.
 - 4. Judas betrayed Jesus for money. It was not until Judas saw that Jesus was going to the cross that his overwhelming guilt caused him to commit suicide. (**Matt 27:3-4**)
 - 5. Why did he commit suicide? Did he not know the Lord would forgive? In the practice of his sin he had so weakened his faith that he could not see.
- D. Modern day Judas’
 - 1. Those who put physical things over spiritual (**Matt 6:33; Col 3:5-6**)
 - 2. Those that have a practice of personal sin with no responsibility. (**Acts 24:16; 1 Jn 3:9**)

II. The Denial of Peter

- A. Peter was overconfident in that he never thought he would have to face this

occasion. (**Matt 26:31-35**)

1. He had showed this same reaction earlier. (**Matt 16:21-23**)
2. Perhaps his wrong view of the kingdom encouraged this view.
3. His overconfidence left him unprepared. (**Matt 26:40-41**)
4. Even though the Lord specifically warned him, he did the very thing he denied he would ever do. (**Matt 26:56, 58, 69-75**)

B. Overconfident Peter's of our day. (**1 Cor 10:12**)

1. Those who take it easy in Bible classes. (Or miss altogether)
2. Those who are not striving to grow and take on responsibility.
3. Those who ignore clear warnings of scripture. (**1 Cor 15:33**)

III. The Cowardice of Pilate

A. Pilate probably thought of himself as a man of courage!

1. After all he had tried to free Christ. (**Jn 18:38, 39-40; 19:1-6**)
2. Pilate, like other cowards announced the truth but wanted others to take a stand first. He would not pay the price.
3. He thought he could wash his hands after just saying what was right. (**Matt 27:24**)
4. What was the truth about Pilate? (**Acts 4:24-27**)

B. Who are the Pilates of today?

1. Those who compromise out of peer pressure. (Ex. Modest dress, church attendance and family visits, stopping gossip)
2. Those who will fellowship those in sin. (**2 Jn 9-11**) (Ex. These will not rebuke error and even will praise them in their religious sin.)

IV. The Perplexity of the Centurion

A. The Centurion honestly saw the events and was troubled.

1. He knew Jesus was an innocent man. How? By the actions of His accusers and the signs done. (**Matt 27:39-43, 51-54**)
2. Even though he did not have the background of many there, he could see while many others could not. Why?

B. We need to find and present the modern day centurions with the powerful evidence of the gospel of Christ. (**Rom 1:16**) (Ex. Cornelius)

V. The Steadfastness of Mary

A. Mary never left her place and was with the Lord until the end. (**Mt 27:55-56**)

B. We need the steadfast Marys of today who will stay at their posts no matter what. (**1 Cor 15:58**)

Conclusion: Were you there?

A. In many ways we show the same heart of the people we have studied.

1. Will you help crucify the Lord? (**Heb 6:4-6**)
2. Will you stand with the Lord as thus show the glory of the cross of Christ. (**Acts 5:41-42**)

B. What will your answer be?