

Sermon Reflections

The Twisted Irony of the Cross • Matthew 27:27–44

Summary: What do you see when you look at the cross? The world sees foolishness and failure. Instead, with eyes of faith, behold the greatness of Jesus Christ.

Twisted Irony of the Cross...

1. They Ridicule Him as a King (vv. 27-31)

- What does Christ's non-response to the mocking and ridicule in this passage tell you about the character of God? How do Christ's actions compare to every other human King?
- Read Philippians 2:5–11. What words stand out to you in this passage? Why? Are you ever unwilling to submit to God's plans, because the cost seems too high? What is one area in your life where you are not submitting to God, and how can you trust Christ to do good to you and bring Himself glory by obeying Him?
- The Romans spoke better than they knew. Jesus is the King, not only of the Jews, but of everyone, yet He is still mocked today. How have you mocked God's authority in your life? What did that say about your view of God and who He is?
- In seeing Christ's humility, are you ever tempted to forget that He is the King of Kings? Why do we need to be reminded both of His selflessness and sovereign authority?
- The Jews and Romans presumed that Jesus could not be God's King. Do we ever presume to know God's ways and will based on appearances, and not His Word?

2. They Taunt Him as a Criminal (vv. 32-38)

- Read Psalm 22. What parallels can be drawn and what fulfillment of Scripture do you see in Matthew 27? The Gospel is called an "eternal Gospel" (Rev. 14:6). How does the whole message of the Bible culminate on the cross?
- Why would Christ allow himself to be so treated? (Read Colossians 2:14!) What effect should Romans 8:1, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Colossians 2:14 have on our souls? Do you ever find yourself trying to atone for your sin, forgetting Christ bore them all?
- Christ endured an incredible amount of injustice in this text for our eternal good. How do we handle "injustices" in our lives? Somebody cut you off? Took your place in line? What does our attitude toward being mistreated reveal about who we think we are, and what we deserve? (Reconsider Matthew 18:21–35).

3. They Mock Him as a Savior (vv. 39-44)

- If Christ came down from the cross, would the scribes and chief priests have believed in Him? (see Luke 16:31). What does this remind you about man's need, and what is God's power to meet that need? (Rom. 1:16–17). Are you being faithful to share the Good News?
- Spend time in prayer, thanking God for these ironies that led to our salvation!