



On the Road to Calvary

Matthew 27:27-44; Mark 15:16-32;

Luke 23:26-43; John 19:17-27

We Come Now

- To that one incident which is at once the most horrific and the most blessed event in all of human history - the crucifixion of the King of Glory.
- It is certainly true that the gruesome death of our Lord at the hands of His enemies is not a happy subject, and yet, it is at the same time true that no subject - no incident in all of sacred or human history - is so worthy of our consideration.

And Furthermore...

While the scenes of Golgotha are uniformly wretched, those scenes are at the same moment the most important, the most sublime, and the most blessed that a sanctified soul can conceive.

Did You Know?

Our English word
“excruciating” comes from
the Latin word *excruciat*,
which means...

“out of the cross.”

Jesus Thought Often of the Cross

- **Matthew 10:38** – “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”
- **Matthew 16:24** – “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.’”

And He will now take up His own.

Friday Morning

A short time was necessary to make physical and logistic preparations for the crucifixion; during this time Jesus was remanded to the Roman officers, who called their fellows together and engaged in vicious mockery of the condemned man.



Matthew 27:27-30

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. **28** They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. **29** And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **30** They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.



As they set out for the place of crucifixion, to the north of the walls of Jerusalem, Jesus was compelled to carry His cross; He was so debilitated by the sufferings already endured that another had to be called to assist Him with the burden.

Matthew 27:31-33

31 After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. **32** As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross. **33** And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull

Who is this “man of Cyrene?”

Cyrene was a region in North Africa with a large Jewish population.

Simon was likely a Jew who had traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover.

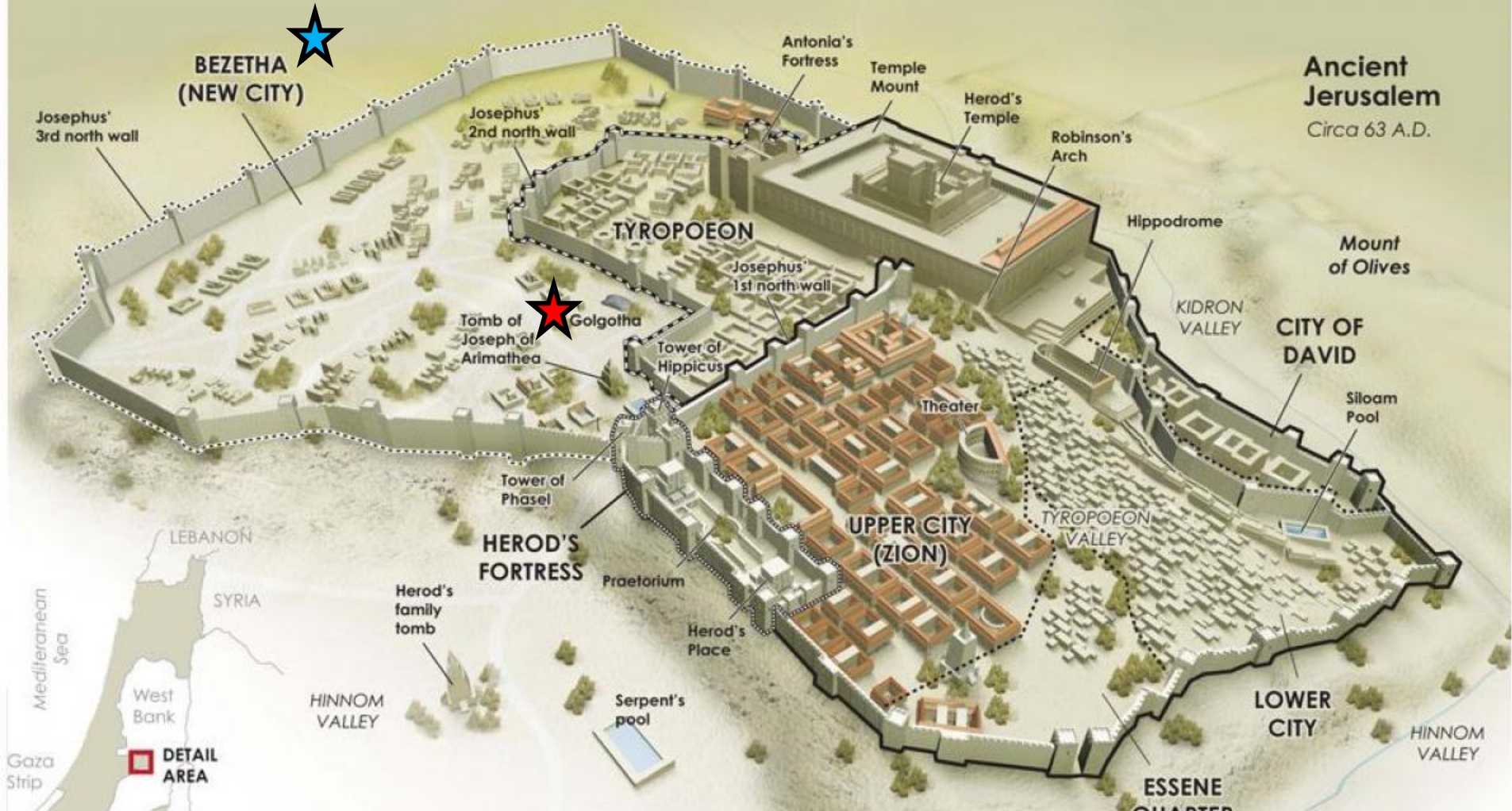
But why does Matthew identify him by name?

Perhaps Simon was Well Known

I believe Simon of Cyrene was known to the church.

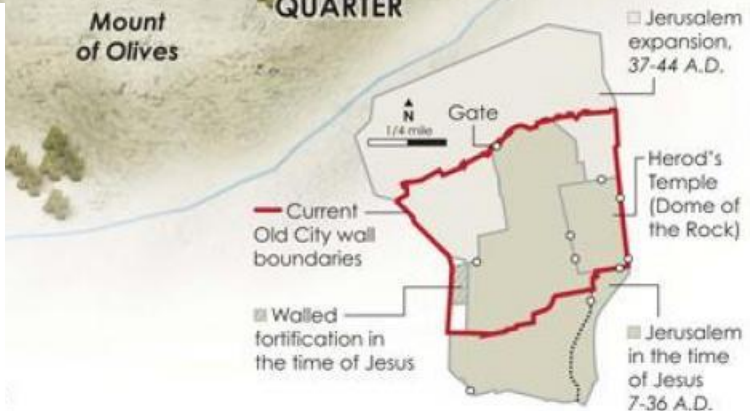
• **Acts 13:1** –

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and **Simeon that was called Niger**, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.”



Ancient Jerusalem
Circa 63 A.D.

Hebrews 13:12 – “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”













Although the Disciples

- Had forsaken Christ and fled, there followed Jesus at this time “a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him” (Luke 23:27).
- Jesus turned to these and warned them to “stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children” (Luke 23:28).



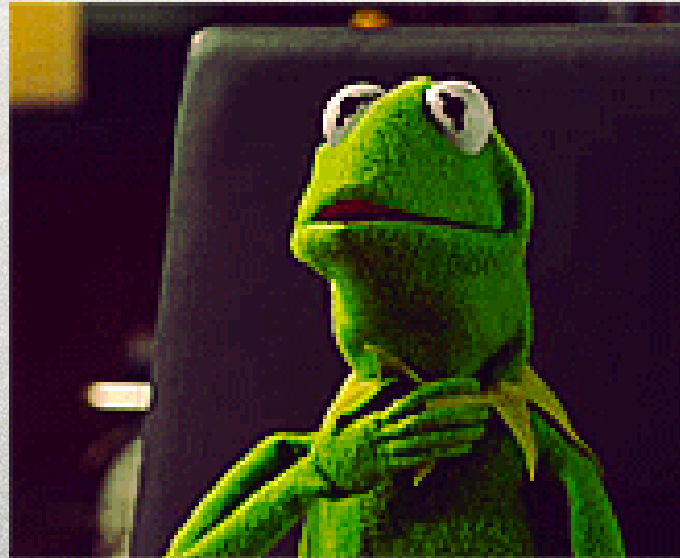
The Romans Perfected It...

**And there were 3
requirements for a Roman
Crucifixion:**

- 1. It Had To Be Public.**
- 2. It Had To Be Lingerin.**
- 3. It Had To Result In Death.**

If A Man Survived The Cross...

**The entire detail assigned to the
crucifixion were crucified
themselves.**



Crucifixion

- It was customary for the condemned man to carry his cross from the flogging post to the site of crucifixion outside the city walls (1/3 mile).
- He was usually naked, unless this was prohibited by local customs.

Crucifixion

- Since the weight of the entire cross was probably well over 300 pounds, only the crossbar (patibulum) was carried, which in and of itself weighed 75 to 125 pounds.
- Usually the outstretched arms were tied or nailed to the crossbar.

A Third Nail

- The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each.
- His full weight would be on the nail when He stretches to breathe, sending searing pain through the nerves between the metatarsal bones in His feet.



The Nails

The archaeological remains of a crucified body, found in an ossuary near Jerusalem and dating from the time of Christ, indicate that the nails were tapered iron spikes approximately 5 to 7 inches long with a square shaft $\frac{3}{8}$ inch across.

Psalm 22:16

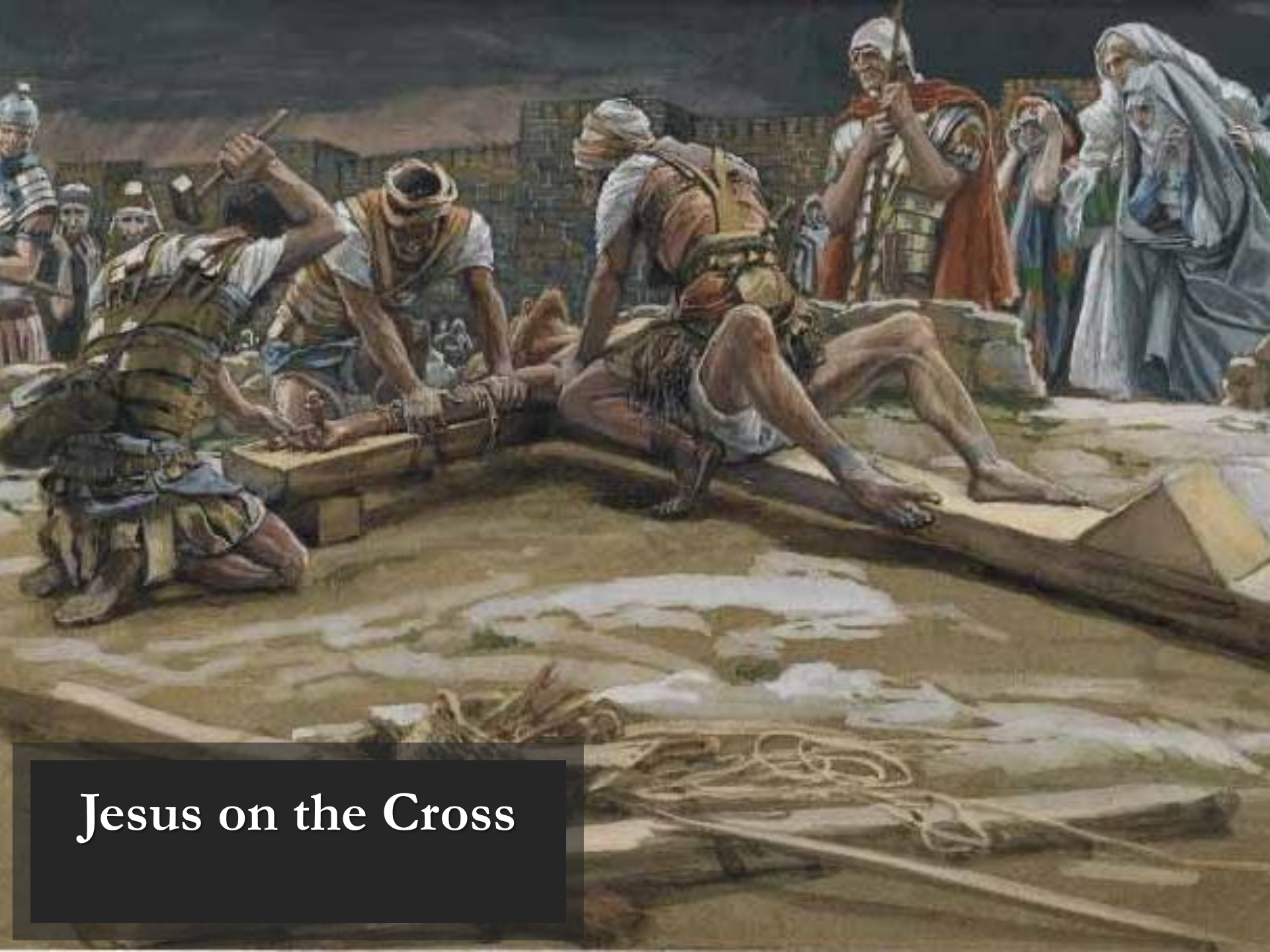
16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.

The Son of Man is Lifted Up

- After both arms and legs were fixed to the crossbar, the patibulum and the victim, together, were lifted onto the vertical beam.
- The soldiers and civilian crowd often taunted and jeered the condemned man, and the soldiers customarily divided up his clothes among themselves.

Luke Tells Us in 23:32-33

32 Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. **33** When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.



Jesus on the Cross

Matthew 27:34

“they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.”

“He preferred to drink to the bitter dregs the cup which His Father had given Him, and remain in full possession of all His powers through it all. The narcotics, prepared possibly by the charitable hands of the women of Jerusalem, were to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of this horrible death by deadening the senses. Jesus would not receive them though offered repeatedly and by humane hearts.” (J.W. Shepard)

John 19:19-22

19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” **20** Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek. **21** So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” **22** Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

Frederic Farrar, *The Life of Christ*

“With the passionate ill-humor of the Roman governor there probably blended a vein of seriousness. While he was delighted to revenge himself on his detested subjects by an act of public insolence, he probably meant, or half meant, to imply that this was, in one sense, the King of the Jews - the greatest, the noblest, the truest of His race - whom, therefore, His race had crucified. The King was not unworthy of His kingdom, but the kingdom of the King... The Jews felt the intensity of the scorn with which Pilate had treated them. It so completely poisoned their hour of triumph, that they sent their chief priests in deputation, begging the Governor to alter the obnoxious title... But Pilate’s courage, which had oozed away so rapidly at the name of Caesar, had now revived. He was glad in any and every way to browbeat and thwart the men whose seditious clamour had forced him in the morning to act against his will.”

During This Time

- Roman soldiers cast lots for the garment of Jesus.

Matthew 27:35 – “And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots.”

- A fulfillment of:

Psalm 22:18 – “They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.”

It Was Roman Procedure

- To assign four soldiers to each victim as that victim went to his execution; the four assigned to Jesus first took what could be divided and distributed the items among themselves, but His “tunic” (outer garment) was “seamless, woven in one piece,” (John 19:23) and to rend it would destroy its value.
- Thus, the four cast lots to see who would have it.



**During This
Time**

**The Lord speaks 3
times.**

**Each utterance gives
us insight into the
Person and Work of
Jesus.**

1. A Word of Compassion...

- For His Enemies: Luke 23:34 –

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

How are we to understand Jesus’ pronouncement concerning the understanding of His tormentors?

Elsewhere in the New Testament

- **1 Corinthians 2:8** – “the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
- **Acts 3:17** – “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.”
- **Acts 13:27** – “For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning Him.”

2. A Word of Compassion...

- For the Repentant Thief: Luke 23:42-43 –

“And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!’ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’”

Alfred Edersheim,
The Life & Times of Jesus the Messiah

“The ‘penitent’ had spoken of the future, Christ spoke of ‘today’; the penitent had prayed about that Messianic Kingdom which was to come, Christ assured him in regard to the state of the disembodied spirits, and conveyed to him the promise that he would be there in the abode of the blessed – ‘Paradise’ – and that through means of Himself as the Messiah: ‘Amen, I say unto thee – Today with Me shalt thou be in the Paradise.’”

3. A Word of Compassion...

- **For His Mother: John 19:26-27 –**

“When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

Luke 23:35-37

35 And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.” **36** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, **37** and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”

Psalm 22:6b-8

6b A reproach of men and despised by the people. **7** All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, **8** “Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”

The Great Irony in this Statement

**“let Him save Himself if this is
the Christ of God, His Chosen
One”**

**It is precisely because He is the
promised King that He would not
come down, and rather than save
Himself, He chooses to endure the
Cross in order to save those that
have rejected Him.**



Next Week:

**The Final 3
Hours on the
Cross & The
Death of the
God-Man**

