

Looking Upon the Cross

Luke 23:35-49

Introduction: If you were at the crucifixion of Christ, what would you have done? Would pity the Lord? Would you try to prevent it? Would you offer yourself to be crucified? Or would you cry, “Crucify him, crucify him?”

For the next 30 minutes or so, I would like for you to imagine yourself at the base of the cross. You’ve been time warped to Golgotha. The only thing that changed is your attire. You are standing before the cross in your fashionable tunic and you see His blood dripping body hanging by the nails in His hands and feet. You see people jeering him, ridiculing Him and spitting on Him. You look upon His pale face; His sunken eyes, you see His agony. It is worse than you have ever imagined it. What do you do? Do you see yourself rushing before the crowd to push them away and chastise them for their cruel conduct? Maybe you see yourself trying to take Him off the cross. Maybe you are just standing there weeping. Or do you see yourself encouraging His persecutors?

If we had the chance in person to look upon the cross, would our presence change anything? We might like to think so, but I think not.

I. When we sin willfully, we crucify the Lord afresh (Heb. 10:26-31).

A. If we see ourselves doing something courageous to “save” our Lord, why do we willingly sin?

B. As long as we live in sin, we are the ones at the cross doing the persecution! We are the ones spitting on Him.

C. It doesn’t have to be that way (Heb. 10:32-39).

II. If Christ doesn’t die on the cross, we will burn in Hell.

A. Peter was rebuked for thinking he could “save” the Lord (Matt. 16:21-23).

B. Christ’s death is what has reconciled us to Him (Rom. 5:6-11).

C. Would we really want to prevent Christ dying on the cross if we were there? Would Christ want us to prevent it? Even if we were in a position to prevent Christ’s death, we wouldn’t have done anything more than Peter.

III. We deny Him every time we sin.

A. We like to think like Peter (Matt. 26:35). But as we know, before the day was over Peter denied Christ three times (Matt. 26:69-75).

B. Our pride makes us think we would be there for Christ. We think we are the ones who would comfort Him as He hung on the cross. We wouldn't have done any such thing because we aren't even willing to give up sin. We are the ones who would have scorned His Love!

C. Rather, it was Christ who saved us while hanging on that cross! ("And Can It Be," #102).

Conclusion: Even if we were at the cross, our presence wouldn't change a thing. Weeping bitterly is about all we would be able to do if we were there. Evil had its way that day. Evil that is in each and every one of us. If we weren't weeping at the cross, we would have been nailing the nails, spitting in His face, encouraging His death. Oh the wretched people we are.

If you are tired of trampling Jesus underfoot, tired of shouting "crucify Him," tired of making His cross ever higher, tired of watching Jesus die over and over each day because of your sins, please come...

"I'm the One" #604