

WHAT DO YOU SEE ON CALVARY?



TEXT: *Matthew 27:36* **And sitting down they watched him there;**

THESIS: To review the sufferings of our Savior on the Cross.

INTRO.: A. Our text says that those around the cross of our Savior sat down while He suffered for them **"...and watched Him there."** I am sure that though they watched Him die they didn't see that He was dying for them. When YOU look at the cross **WHAT DO YOU SEE ON CALVARY?** Do you really see what He suffered? Do you really see what He suffered for YOU?

B. When the Lord laid on my heart to preach on the cross and the sufferings of our Savior, I thought about His physical sufferings alone. But as I looked anew at the Cross, I saw so much more. **"WHAT DO YOU SEE ON CALVARY?"** Here's what I saw...

I. HIS INTERNAL SUFFERINGS:

Jn.12:27 *Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

A. His Holiness Invaded:

1. Here is the innocent Lamb of God having the sins of every vile sinner laid upon Him; no wonder His "soul (was) troubled."
2. Here is the Just suffering for the unjust, the Righteous suffering for the un-righteous.

1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

B. His Purity Degraded:

1. Everywhere in the O.T. the Bible speaks of making a difference between the clean & the unclean, the holy & the profane.
2. On Calvary the Clean becomes unclean, the Holy becomes profane, because upon Him are laid all the putrifying, degrading, filthy sins of humankind.

Matthew 26:36-38 *Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.*

C. His Love Rejected:

1. He had to think about His traitorous "friend" & hand-picked Apostle, Judas.
2. He looked down from the Cross for His other Apostles & only saw John.
3. His heart had been broken earlier when He heard the leading Apostle Peter deny Him.
4. His greatest sorrow no doubt came from His chosen nation's rejection!

II. HIS EXTERNAL SUFFERINGS:

Isaiah 50:6 *I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

D. The Sinful Arrest:

Mt.26:55 *In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.*

B. The Scandalous Trials:

1. The Ecclesiastical Trial Before the Sanhedrin (those entrusted w/the spiritual leadership of His chosen nation!).
2. The Civil Trials:
 - a. Before Pilate.
 - b. Before Herod. ("Jesus was silent before Herod that the voice of the dead Baptist might be heard." - Stalker)
 - c. Before Pilate again.
 - d. Before the Jewish Religionists & people. "Crucify Him!"

C. The Slandorous Charges: Mt.26:59-68

D. The Stinging Whip: Mt.27:26

E. The Shameless Mocking:

Mt.27:27-30 *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.*

F. The Stabbing Crown: Mt.27:29 (A mock coronation)

G. The Slashing Spikes: Mt.27:35a

H. The Shameful Nakedness: Mt.27:35b

I. The Shrieking Crowd: Mt.27:39-44

J. The Scorching Thirst: Mt.27:48

K. The Searing Dehydration:

L. The Sharp Spear:

John 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

ILLUS.: Only John records this final humiliation, as an eyewitness standing at the cross. I can see Him wince w/sorrow for His Savior at these indignities. Oliver Greene preached a message on this event & said that there was nothing lower in the annals of human history than this act of savagery. To thrust a spear into the side of a dying man was likened to running over an animal w/your car deliberately & while it writhes in pain, backing up to finish the job!

III. HIS INFERNAL SUFFERINGS:

ILLUS.: It was bad enough to endure the sufferings endured at the hands of sinful humans, but insult is added to injury by the onslaught of the enemy all during the life & final moments of Jesus' life. Satan had tried to keep Him from being born by polluting the line of the Messiah. He had prompted Herod to kill him when He was just an infant. No doubt time & again he mounted an offensive against the Savior.

A. The Temptation on The Mount. **Mt.4:1-11**

ILLUS.: The 3 fold temptation of body, soul & spirit, effectively used against Adam & Eve and all the rest of humanity, failed completely when used against our Savior.

B. The Testing in The Garden:

Luke.22:44 *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

ILLUS.: Many see this as the final assault by Satan against the Savior & an attempt to kill Him before He could go to Calvary.

IV. HIS SUPERNAL SUFFERINGS:

DEFINITION: The word "supernal" means "from above, from the sky or heaven." The greatest sufferings of our Savior, came from the hand of His Father.

Matthew 26:31 *Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I (God) will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.*

Isaiah 53:4 *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

Rom.8:32 *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Psalms 38:2 *For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.*

Psalms 88:6-7 *Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves.*

Ps.88:15-16 *I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted. Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off.*

CONCL.: Perhaps now as we have looked again at Calvary we can see more clearly what He suffered for us. As we have looked anew at the Cross, perhaps now we are ready to take the Lord's Supper... **"WHAT DO YOU SEE ON CALVARY?"**