

Kingdom Reclaimed
Matthew 27:27-44
Study Guide

Big Idea: Evil put Jesus on the cross, but love kept Him there.

1. Ignorant Evil.

Read Matthew 27:27-37. Jesus is now in an entirely gentile context. There are 420+ Roman soldiers who are trained to intimidate, torture and kill people. List the verbs describing what was done to Jesus. Recount from the sermon what it was like to receive 39 cat-of-nine-tails.

2. Ill-informed Evil.

Read Matthew 27:38-40 & 44. What are the robbers and those passing by doing? How were the people misinformed about the statement of destroying and rebuilding the temple? Share an experience when someone misjudged you and falsely accused you of something. How did that make you feel?

3. Intentional Evil.

Read Matthew 27:41-43. These are the religious leaders who had witnessed the words and works of Christ. They were the educated ones in regard to prophecy. Yet they mock Christ and challenge Him to come down off the cross to save Himself. Why such evil?

4. According to Romans 9:31-33, the cross is a “*rock of offense*”. Consider that...

a...it exposes our rebellion.

b. ...it exposes our pride.

Discuss.

Can you accept that you were a part of putting Jesus on the cross? Why or why not?

5. Think about what it cost Jesus to pay for our sins. Discuss the idea that the price He paid reveals our worth. How does it make you feel to know that you are valued so much by God? Discuss.

Message Slides

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A. Ignorant Evil (v. 27-31)

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

A. Ignorant Evil -cont. (v. 32-37)

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Image- skull

B. Ill-informed Evil (v. 38-40 & 44)

³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

C. Intentional Evil (v. 41-43)

⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Why such Evil? The Offense of the Cross

Gal. 5:11- "...the offense of the cross."

Rom. 9:31-33- "...a rock of offense."

1 Cor. 1:17-25- "...a stumbling block for the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles."

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The cross offends because...

1. ... it exposes our rebellion!

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2. ...it exposes our pride!

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John 10:18

"No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord..."

