

At The Foot of the Cross

(Matthew 27:32-56)

- Introduction:
1. As one reads Matthew's account of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus, he is able to see a number of people frozen in time.
 2. At the foot of the cross that day were several people.
 3. In fact, if you look hard enough, you'll find yourself amongst the crowd.
 4. That is precisely the design of tonight's lesson.
 5. I want you to find yourself at the foot of the cross.

I. Forced To The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:32).
- B. There is no indication from this account that this man had any real interest in Jesus. He was simply forced to the cross of Jesus.
- C. Could it be that any of us feel like Simon (i.e. forced to the cross)?
 1. A husband who comes only for his wife?
 2. Children who come only because they have to?
 3. A wife who comes only for her children?
 4. A preacher who comes to get paid?

II. Foolish At The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:34-44).
- B. This would include the soldiers, the crowd, and the religious leaders.
 1. The Soldiers - within the shadow of the cross, totally oblivious to the importance of the event, playing games.
 2. The Crowd - so close to the cross, but so far from Christ.
 3. The Religious Leaders - knew better, but envy got the best of them.

III. Forgiven At The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:44-54).
- B. (Luke 23:39-43).
- C. A criminal, probably the least likely candidate, is the one forgiven.
- D. Remorse, humility, and a plea for help are the expressions seen in this picture.

- Conclusion:
1. So, where are you?
 2. Are you among those who were forced to the cross?
 3. Are you among those who were foolish at the cross?
 4. Are you among those who were forgiven at the cross?
 5. Before you leave today, make certain that you are neither forced nor foolish at the cross of Christ, but forgiven.