



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King on the Cross!

Matthew 27:26-50

Message #77 of 80 – S1118

Sermon given on September 8, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King on the Cross!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 27**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King on the Cross!**
- Sacrifice and suffering are not popular topics.
- I am guessing that none of you woke up this morning and thought, “I hope Pastor Rick teaches on sacrifice and suffering today!” Right?
- But if we are going to be faithful to study the life of Christ, then we must remember, that was part of His life.
- In fact, every month, we do Communion to remind ourselves of Christ's sacrifice and suffering.
- As Christ-followers, suffering and sacrifice will come.
- What Christ did for us on the cross is so important that if we overlook it, we don't have a gospel message to preach.
- In the last message, Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor.
- Pilate struggled to justify putting the Jewish carpenter from Nazareth to death.
- As the mob grows increasingly riotous, he decides it is in his best interest to give the Jewish religious leaders what they want, and he hands Jesus over to be crucified.
- **Matthew 27:26**
- Barrabas was a murderer who had been condemned to die.
- Pilate had tried to use Barabbas to get the Jews to release Jesus.
- It didn't work – they would be satisfied with nothing less than His death.
- Before He was crucified, Jesus was scourged.

- Scourging was such a horrible punishment that it was illegal to scourge a Roman citizen.
- Scourging was fatal about 6 out of ten times.
- It would leave the back shredded, often exposing bone and muscle.
- Jesus would be a bloody mess.
- **Matthew 27:27-29**
- The Jews rejected Jesus as King, and the Romans mocked Him as King.
- Between the two groups, they represent all humanity.
- The Jews refused to bow the knee before Christ, and the Romans do it mockingly.
- Someday, everyone will bow in true surrender to Christ (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- And they are not finished mocking Jesus.
- **Matthew 27:30-31**
- I don't know how Jesus just stood there and took it.
- Jesus, God in the flesh, allowed these wicked people, to not just abuse Him, but also to mock Him.
- **Matthew 27:32**
- It was customary to have the condemned person paraded around the city carrying at least the cross beam.
- Jesus was so ruined by the beatings and flogging that He couldn't do it.
- The Romans, wanting to speed things along, compelled Simon to carry it for Jesus.
- This would have been an incredibly humiliating thing for Simon to do.
- Tradition says that Simon became a believer, and his two sons were important members of the early church.
- **Matthew 27:33**
- 'Golgotha' – 'Place of a Skull' – 'skull' = κρανίον (kranion), from which we get the word cranium.

- Luke 12:33 translates this word as ‘Calvary’.
- The Calvary comes from the Latin calvaria which means “a skull.”
- Gordon’s Calvary (**image: Gordon’s-Calvary - Matthew 2024 27.32**)
- British officer Major-General Charles George Gordon, a devout Christian, Gordon spent a year in 1883 studying the Bible in Jerusalem believes this is the location of Christ’s crucifixion.
- It is just outside the walls of Jerusalem and very near the garden where many believe Jesus was buried.
- **Matthew 27:34**
- The wine mingled with gall, or myrrh, would have dulled the pain of the crucifixion.
- The Romans gave it to the condemned so that they resisted less while being nailed to the cross.
- Why would Jesus refuse it? He choose to feel every bit of the suffering that He was saving us from.
- **Matthew 27:35-37**
- Matthew quotes from Psalm 22, which we will look at a little later.
- The Romans stay there to prevent anyone from trying to rescue Jesus.
- Jesus was not crucified alone.
- **Matthew 27:38**
- ‘robber’ – These were not just guilty of stealing but of violence in the act of robbing others.
- John’s gospel refers to Barabbas as a robber.
- It is highly likely that the cross Jesus was crucified on was the one Barabbas was going to executed on.
- Jesus took his place on the cross.
- Barabbas then represents all fallen humanity.
- Jesus took the place of every person on earth to pay the penalty for our sin (**1 John 2:1-2**).

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- Jesus' suffering continues as His creation mocks Him even as He is dying.
- **Matthew 27:39-43**
- 'save Yourself' – Jesus couldn't save Himself.
- Even though He was God and possessed the power that created the universe and everything in it, this was something He couldn't do.
- Because if Jesus saved Himself, He would be condemning humanity to eternity separated from God.
- To save us, Jesus couldn't save Himself (**John 12:27**).

Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

- The omnipotence they are mockingly telling Jesus to use to come down from the cross is what Jesus will use to raise Himself from the dead (**John 10:17-18**).

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

- This is what Jesus came to the earth to do (**Matthew 18:11**).

For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

- The religious leaders say, 'we will believe in Him if He saves Himself' – Probably not.
- The parable of the rich man and Lazarus speaks to that point.
- Even the robbers crucified with Jesus mock Him.

- **Matthew 27:44**

- Luke's gospel tells us that one of them had a change of heart and asked Jesus to bring him to Christ's kingdom (**Luke 23:42-43**).

Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

- This should remind us how amazing God's grace is.
- This robber did no good deeds, and he practiced no religion – he just chose to believe.
- And then the first of many supernatural things takes place.
- **Matthew 27:45**
- Jesus was crucified at about 9 am. 'sixth hour' is about noon, and the 'ninth hour' is about three pm.

- This is a supernatural darkness, probably like the darkness in the ninth plague of Egypt in Exodus.
- The ninth plague lasted three days and the darkness in the land at Christ's crucifixion lasted three hours.
- Darkness is a symbol of evil, wickedness, and sin.
- At some point God pours out the cup of His wrath and indignation about sin upon His sinless Son.
- The darkness may have come as that happened.
- For three hours Jesus endured the suffering of being nailed to the cross, and then His suffering was magnified exponentially as God made Him to be sin (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- And then about 3 pm Jesus' suffering is almost over.
- **Matthew 27:46**
- The ninth hour is about the time of the evening sacrifice.
- Turn to (**Psalm 22**).
- The darkness fades and light returns.
- Jesus cries out in Hebrew, which Matthew then translates for us.
- Jesus quotes the first line of Psalm 22.
- The psalm is too long for us to read here, but look at verses...
- **Psalm 22:6-8, 16-18, and 30-31**
- It is hard for me to wrap my mind around the idea of God the Father turning His back on His Son Christ Jesus.
- Turn back to (**Matthew 27**).
- Thankfully, it only lasted until Jesus died, having finished His work on the earth of making a way for all humanity to get right with God.
- Those three hours that Jesus suffered in darkness on the cross, separated from God are a picture of the destiny of everyone who rejects Christ as their Savior.
- Except it won't be for three hours.
- For eternity they will suffer in darkness feeling the weight of all their sins.
- Jesus died so that anyone who puts their trust in Him can escape that terrible fate (**John 14:6**).

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- And then Jesus finishes His work on the earth.
 - **Matthew 27:47-50**
 - ‘yielded up His spirit’ – Jesus laid down His life – He dismissed it.
 - He did this as an expression of love (**John 15:13**).
- Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.**
- We will be sharing in Communion this morning.
 - As we prepare, we should take a moment and reflect upon Christ’s sacrifice and suffering for us.
 - Allow God to speak to your heart – are you living a life worthy of the price that was paid for it?
 - Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow our faith!
 - **Pray! Communion! Last Song!**