

WATCHING JESUS DIE!

MATTHEW 27: 36

Introduction:

The crowd that watched Jesus die was a mixed crowd. There were some there who loved Him and grieved at His death. There were some there who hated Him and rejoiced at His death. There were some there who were totally indifferent—like the soldiers—and could not care less. There were some in the crowd who were changed that day as they watched Jesus die.

But there were heavenly eyes on the Cross as well as those of earth. He was observed by a faithful and living heavenly Father as He died. He was watched by a multitude of angels who were under His command as He died. He was watched by a expectant multitude in heaven that awaited the sacrifice that He would offer. Their complete salvation depended on His mission to the Cross. There were representative of Satan who watched Him die thinking that had brought an end to Him.

But we too have a perspective of His death. As we read the Gospels and listen to the interpretation of the Spirit, we can watch as He dies. Randy Alcorn, who has written an excellent book on heaven, supposes that one of

the blessing of heaven will be the capacity to go back and view the great events of the past as an eyewitness—both great events in our lives, and events in the lives of others. Would it not be a wonder to be able to go back and sit with the crowd while Jesus died, and be an eyewitness to the event?

Let's just imagine for a moment that God has given us that capacity. What would we see? What actually happened that day?

I. WE WOULD SEE THE CAPACITY OF THE HUMAN FAMILY FOR EVIL.

“Ye men of Israel, hear thee words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.” (Acts 2:22-23)

1. The human capacity for deception.

Jesus prayed for them, “Father, forgive them for they know what they do.”

2. The human capacity for injustice.

They condemned the only just and sinless man who ever walked on the planet to death.

3. The human capacity for violence.

They were not content to just end his life, but rather they felt `compelled to heap on every humiliating thing the human mind could imagine.

II. WE WOULD SEE THE DEPTH OF HEAVEN'S LOVE FOR SINNERS.

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5: 6-8)

1. The Father sent the Son knowing that He would suffer.
2. The Father gave the Son knowing that He would die.

III. WE WOULD SEE THE MEASURE OF THE SON'S OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER.

“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2: 8)

1. His obedience was voluntary.

His only compulsion was to glorify Father by saving those He was sent to save.

2. His obedience was complete.

He demonstrated that there was nothing He would not do. He went even to the Cross.

IV. WE WOULD SEE THE PRICE OF OUR SALVATION.

Redemption took place on the Cross.

“Forasmuch as ye know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of lamb without blemish and without spot, who, verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” (1

Peter 1: 18-20)

1. Our salvation required a sinless sacrifice
2. Our salvation required a substitutionary sacrifice.