



"THEY LAID ON HIM THE CROSS TO CARRY BEHIND JESUS"

LUKE 23:26-31, MARK 15:21-23

LUKE 23:26-31

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him.

But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.'

For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

MARK 15:21-23

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

—The Cross Bearer—

The journey out of the city;

NUMBERS 15:35

³⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

HEBREWS 13:12-13

¹² So Jesus also *suffered outside the gate* in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

A lawful command;

MATTHEW 5:41

⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

Cyrene: a place where the gospel found deep root?;

ACTS 2:10

¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and *the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene*, and visitors from Rome.

ACTS 11:20

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and *Cyrene*, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, *preaching the Lord Jesus*.

ACTS 13:1

¹ Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene...

Who carried Jesus' cross?;

JOHN 19:16-17

¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified...and he went out, *bearing his own cross*, to the place called The Place of a Skull...

The bearing of the cross foreshadowed;

GENESIS 22:6

⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and *laid it on Isaac his son*...

What is known, unknown, and assumed;

The importance of Simon, and what we are to see;

"Passing by";

MARK 1:16

¹⁶ *Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee*, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

MARK 2:14

¹⁴ *And as he passed by*, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

LUKE 9:23

²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would *come after me*, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and *follow me*."

The sudden and unexpected nature of the thrusting of Simon into the cross of Christ is a powerful demonstration of;

1. The providence of God to direct all things towards His end
2. The need to be prepared for God to redirect our lives at any moment

—The Mourners—

Who are the mourners for Jesus?;

MARK 5:38

³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw *a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly*.

With the strongest rebuke, Jesus rebukes making the Son of God the object of pity;

HOSEA 10:8

⁸ ...and they shall say to the mountains, "Cover us," and to the hills, "Fall on us."

GENESIS 29:31

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

LUKE 19:40-44

⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side ⁴⁴ and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. *And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.*"

Mis-focusing on wrong aspects of the atoning sacrifice;

JOHN 13:1

...when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, *he loved them to the end.*

Scripture requires the primary focus of the atonement is the obedience of the Son and the glory of the Father and the Son;

HEBREWS 12:2

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him *endured the cross, despising the shame,* and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

JOHN 17:5

⁵ And now, Father, *glorify me* in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

It is impossible to worship what you simultaneously pity.

—**The Wine**—

What was the purpose of the wine, and why did Jesus refuse it?;

PROVERBS 31:6

⁶ Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;

MATTHEW 26:29

²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

MARK 13:37

³⁷ "And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

The blessed apprehension of the Messiah;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

ROMANS 5:8

⁸ ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ISAIAH 53:6

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; *and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Unspeakable comfort is found in knowing that the Messiah bore our sin with full apprehension and understanding. Nothing of our sin was hidden from Him, and He required no mind-numbing or sensory-dulling drugs in order to offer Himself up for us.