



Good Friday


Jesus' Identification with Brokenness

Matthew 27:27-54

God wants to know our condition fully and does not want to take away any pain which he himself has not fully tasted. His compassion is anchored in the most intimate solidarity, a solidarity that allows us to say with the palmist, "This is our God, and we are the people he pastures, the flock that he guides" (Psalm 95:7)


Jesus' Sacrifice

- Demonstrates his solidarity with humanity through life & death – shines brightly on 'Good Friday'
- Considering through the lens of three characters




Simon From Cyrene

Matthew 27:32-37



- Simon, from North Africa (Libya)
- Carries the horizontal beam for the cross to Golgotha
- "He was compelled to do so" (v32) – either by others or from his own desire to identify with Jesus



An Early Gentile Believer

- A follower of Christ – Mark 15:21 lists his children
- Simon was obviously known by the early church records
- Anticipates Jesus' mission to the world



Bearing the Cross

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. (Matthew 16:24)

- Simon is willing to take up his personal cross & follow Jesus

The Taunters

The Soldiers

- In the headquarters of Pilate (v27-31)
- Mocking Jesus as 'the king of the Jews'
- Inflicting pain on Jesus

The Passersby

- "...if you are the Son of God come down from the cross"; "save yourself" (v40)
- Show your power by coming down

The Temptation

- Pass by the cross for immediate glory
- Similar to the temptation of Christ by Satan in the wilderness (Matthew 4)

The Bandits

- Those crucified with Jesus 'taunted him in the same way' (v38,44)
- Jewish insurgents most likely not simple thieves – politically motivated revolutionaries

Between Two Sinners

- Symbolically important
- Jesus completely identifies with us in our brokenness & fragility
- He walks with us in our pain and desires to draw us to himself

One Repents

- “Remember me when you come into your kingdom” (Luke 23:43_
- We also are invited to turn to Jesus

The Centurion

Unusual Events

- Upon Jesus’ death
 - there is an earthquake
 - the temple curtain rendered in 2
 - Darkness over the land

The Centurion Comes to Faith

- He is greatly amazed - fearful (v54)
- Becomes a witness to Jesus as the ‘Son of God’
- A harbinger of the Gentiles coming to faith

From Mocker to Believer

- He moves from darkness into light
- He becomes an example of repentance – turning around and following Jesus



- Jesus identifies with our fragility and is crucified between two bandits
- By doing so – one bandit comes to faith & the centurion keeping watch
- We also are invited to turn and receive