

The Radical Cross – Part 3 “The Cross Speaks to Our Greatest Failure...”

As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in all the attractive things of the world was killed long ago, and the world’s interest in me is also long dead. Galatians 6:14 (TLB)

*After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there. A sign was fastened above Jesus’ head, announcing the charge against him. It read: “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” **Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.** The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. “Look at you now!” they yelled at him. You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!” The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. “He saved others,” they scoffed, “but he can’t save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” **Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.** Matthew 27:35-44 (NLT)*

*Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. **Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”** And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.* Luke 23:32-34 (NLT)

*The **crowd watched and the leaders scoffed.** “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”* Luke 23:35 (NLT)

*The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.” This is the sign the Jewish leaders wanted Pilate to change to; He claims to be: But he refused. **One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”*** Luke 23:36-39 (NLT)

But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” Luke 23:40-41 (NLT)

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” Luke 23:42 (NLT)

And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43 (NLT)

Jesus said:
My thoughts about you are not reflected on how everybody else sees you or what has happened to you.

- **Jesus received what He did not deserve, so that we would not receive what we do deserve.**
- **Grace does not demand what it knows we cannot produce.**
- **The Cross of Christ addresses our greatest failure.**

Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave. Isaiah 53:8-9 (NLT)