

**Beneath The Cross Of Jesus**

Galatians 6:12-14.

## INTRODUCTION

- A. No matter where we may work, there will always be different people, but similar attitudes such as: Lazy, hard-workers, integrity, honest, dishonest, caring, ethical, unethical, can-do, can't-do, etc.
- B. Even though we were not physically present beneath the cross of Jesus, we see the same attitudes exist today.
- C. Objectives:
  - 1. Examine the people and attitudes physically present beneath the cross of Jesus.
  - 2. Determine what type(s) of attitude we may have today.

## DISCUSSION

- I. THE BACKGROUND.
  - A. Golgotha was:
    - 1. Strategically located on a hill outside the city.
    - 2. Close and near some public through fare.
    - 3. In a spot visible from afar.
  - B. Due to the Passover, many people were present and "passed by." MT 27:39.
  - C. For many, the cross made no real impression. Jesus was just another criminal executed.
  - D. Many are passing by the cross today and display similar attitudes. Let's look an example.
- II. AN EXAMPLE.
  - A. The people killed Jesus. LK 23:21.
  - B. What sinful conduct motivated the people to kill Jesus?
    - 1. Envy. MT 27:18; JN 12:19.
    - 2. Self-preservation. JN 11:48.
    - 3. Ignorance. Acts 3:17; 1 CO 2:8.
  - C. Because of our sins, we all had a part in saying "Crucify Him, crucify Him! 1 JN 3:4; RO 3:23; 1 CO 15:3-4; Acts 2:36-28.
  - D. Bottom line: We are guilty of killing Jesus and must remove the guilt of our sins by obeying Jesus' commands.
- III. THE ATTITUDES BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS.
  - A. Scoffers and Mockers MT 27:40-43, 49.
    - 1. Well-educated religious people mocked Jesus because they had a different idea of a Messiah and truth of God. Today, many continue to ridicule and insult Jesus and His followers.
    - 2. How can we mock Jesus today? By not acknowledging the simple truth and "total" teaching of Jesus. 2 TI 4:3-4.
    - 3. The sincerely religious people mock Jesus by practicing lawlessness. MT 7:21-23.
    - 4. The zealous establish their own system of righteousness. RO 10:1-4.
    - 5. Bottom Line: There will always be scoffers and mockers. Don't ignore, neglect or be ignorant of the "total" teaching of Jesus! 2 PE 3:3-4.
  - B. Unconcerned and Indifferent. MT 27:35.
    - 1. Many are as close to the cross of Jesus as the soldiers, yet are "num" to pain and really "don't care."
    - 2. We can become de-sensitized to sin and its consequences. We can sear our conscience by persisting in doing wrong. 1 TI 4:1-3.

3. Our lifestyle is a reflection of our indifference and lack of concern. Some examples are:
    - a. Lukewarm – RE 3:15-16.
    - b. Lazy – MT 25:26.
    - c. Worldly -MT 23:22.
    - d. Disobedient - 2 TH 1:7-8.
  4. Bottom Line: Those who “don’t care” will care on Judgment Day. We will be held accountable for our life! 2 CO 5:10.
- C. Convicted. MT 27:54.
1. Their faith surpassed those who had opportunities.
  2. Many saw the miracles and heard His teaching but did not follow. JN 12:42-43.
  3. Some would not believe unless they physically saw or touched the Lord. JN 20:29-31
  4. Bottom line: We must take advantage of the opportunity to believe God’s word.
- D. Loving - Family, friends and loved ones of Jesus were present. They followed Jesus to the cross. MT 27:55-56.
1. God’s spiritual family is always near the cross. 1 CO 1:18; 2:2; GA 6:12, 14.
  2. Without a physical heart we ceased to live, so is Christianity without the cross. The cross of Jesus is our cross to bear.
  3. Jesus demonstrated the love of God and man on the cross. JN 17:4; 19:30. HIS WORK – LK 19:10. PH 2:8 LK 23:34.
  4. Bottom Line: Everything we say or do points to the cross. 1 JN 4:19; 1 PE 2:21; HE 12:1-2.
- E. Discouraged.
1. John, the beloved disciple, was present after being discouraged to the point of forsaking the Lord. MT 26:56; JN 19:26-27.
  2. When we forsake the Lord, we have two choices. We can remain in sin or return to the Lord. 2 TI 4:10; HE 10:25; Acts 8:22.
  3. Bottom Line: Jesus loves those who forsake Him and wants them to return. 1 PE 2:25.

## CONCLUSION

- A. Summary:
1. Everyone is “passing by” the cross of Jesus.
  2. What is your attitude as you look to the cross of Jesus?
  3. Which class of people do you fit into today?
  4. Does the cross of Jesus impress you or will continue to pass by?
  5. We know Jesus died Once, but we can:
    - a. Crucify Him again: HE 6:4-6.
    - b. Trample Him under our feet: HE 10:26-31.
- B. Which choice will you make today? Acts 2:36-38.