

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Views of the Cross (A Kaleidoscope!)

Series: Easter 2023...3 **Text:** Luke 23:26 - 49

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation CONFESS and FOLLOW Jesus Christ of Nazareth!

A reminder of Sunday’s devotional entitled:

Is He Really the King? Yes! And Much More!

1. Jesus Christ the Son of God
2. Jesus Christ the King
3. Jesus Christ the Prophet
4. Jesus Christ the High Priest
5. Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

~ The most important question a person can ever ask of themselves is, when you consider Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary—what do you see?

~ There are a variety of responses; one might say a kaleidoscope of diverse opinions.

1. What the Religious and Political Leaders Saw:

Political Leaders:

~ Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea and supreme judge, had the sole authority to execute a criminal.

~ Luke 23:22, “A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving of death. I will therefore punish and release him.”

~ Matthew 27:24 – 25, “So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” (25) And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!””

~ Herod Antipas (Herod the Tetrarch):

~ Luke 23:11 – 12, “And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. (12) And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.”

Religious leaders:

~ Luke 23:10, “The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.” cf. Lk. 22:2

~ Matthew 12:14, “But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.”

~ Matthew 22:23, “The same day Sadducees came to him, who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question,”

2. What Mary, the Family and Friends Saw:

~ John 19:25 – 27, “but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister; Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. (26) When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” (27) Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.”

The mother’s pain was surely very intense.

~ There is no record of the siblings being present. It was Passover; his brothers were undoubtedly in Jerusalem! Was there perhaps jealousy?

3. What the Disciples Saw:

~ Judas Iscariot was the traitor who committed suicide. Was he trying to force Jesus to take the role of King and reestablish Israel?

~ John was present; he accepts responsibility for Mary the Lord’s mother. Clearly this is a last will and testament instruction from Jesus, or so John must have thought.

~ Did the remaining ten of twelve perceive this as a tragic end of an amazing adventure with this man from Nazareth?

4. What the Two Thieves Saw:

~ Luke 23:39, “One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

~ Luke 23:40 – 43, “But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” (42) And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (43) And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Conclusion:

John 19:19 – 22, “Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” (20) Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. (21) So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said I am King of the Jews.’” (22) Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

What do YOU see?