

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
April 14, 2019

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Sunday Morning 04-14-2019

Jesus always finds a better way. Forget what you think you know about him. Let's get to know the real Jesus.  
<http://bible.com/events/601445>

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How did God's Son, the undying Source of Life, end up dying on a cross?

Mark 15:21-41 NIV

<small><font color="#999999">21</font></small> A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

<small><font color="#999999">22</font></small> They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull").

<small><font color="#999999">23</font></small> Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <small><font color="#999999">24</font></small> And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. <small><font color="#999999">25</font></small> It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. <small><font color="#999999">26</font></small> The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews .

<small><font color="#999999">27</font></small> They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. <small><font color="#999999">28</font></small> <small><font color="#999999">29</font></small> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, <small><font color="#999999">30</font></small> come down from the cross and save yourself!" <small><font color="#999999">31</font></small> In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! <small><font color="#999999">32</font></small> Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<small><font color="#999999">33</font></small> At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <small><font color="#999999">34</font></small> And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ). <small><font color="#999999">35</font></small> When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." <small><font color="#999999">36</font></small> Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

<small><font color="#999999">37</font></small> With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <small><font color="#999999">38</font></small> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <small><font color="#999999">39</font></small> And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" <small><font color="#999999">40</font></small> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary

the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <font color="#999999">41</font></small> In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.  
<https://bible.com/bible/111/mrk.15.21-41.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus died on a cross as his decisive act of love for you.

It's so easy to feel sorry for Jesus. To look at him as the victim of vicious spiritual forces, two-faced religious leaders and fainthearted political appointees.

I'm afraid that if we consider Jesus the powerless prey of a horrendous crime that we will fail to identify him. 2000 years ago, on a hill outside Jerusalem, only a Roman centurion recognized him.

"Truly this man was God's Son!"

Jesus, God's Son, the undying Source of Life, died on a cross because it was his plan and his decisive act of love for you. Jesus was not the casualty of human or divine anger. He was THE VICTOR when he sacrificed his life on the cross.

Jesus does not want or need your pity. You may feel compassion and mercy for him but that's simply off target.

Jesus is God's Son. He was, is, and always will be the King of Kings. He was the victorious one. His life was not taken from him. He chose to sacrifice his life for you.

John 10:18 NET

<font color="#999999">18</font></small> No one takes it away from me, but I lay it down of my own free will. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it back again. This commandment I received from my Father."  
<https://bible.com/bible/107/jhn.10.18.net>