

THE CROSS CANNOT ALWAYS BLESS

Matthew 27:35

Introduction: The crucifixion of Jesus was done, the trial, the frenzy of the crowd, the suspense and danger of an uprising, the words exchanged between the priest Caiaphas and Pilate about Jesus is all over.

The soldiers sit and watch and gamble for the clothes of Jesus. The women stand and watch a ways off and some of the disciples of Jesus watch from afar, fearful for themselves and the crowd passing by did so out of curiosity.

As there were various kinds of people with various attitudes about the cross when Jesus was crucified, so there are similar kinds of people with their various attitudes about the cross in our time today. There are some who will not be blessed because of what happened on the cross.

I. THE CROSS CANNOT BLESS WHEN IT'S IMPORTANCE IS PLAYED DOWN

1. *1 Corinthians 1:17*

2. Paul was determined to know everything about Jesus and His crucifixion.
 - He determined that the preaching about the cross was the power of God unto salvation unto those that believe and to believe anything else was wrong.
3. The cross is truly the ONLY hope one has in being restored to God.
4. Sadly, many "Christians" want to play down the severity of the cross, to make it less horrifying and make it more appealing and acceptable to what people want to hear.
 - Who wants to hear about some man being nailed to a cross with blood running everywhere and the pain and agony, tears and cries of distress?
 - So instead of standing at the foot of the cross of Jesus, many, sadly, have chosen to sit with the soldiers, unaware of the power of the cross and gamble away their souls, never seeing the divine love stretched upon that cross, finding the way to forgive a sinful world.

II. THE CROSS CANNOT BLESS WHEN ONE FAILS TO TRUST ENTIRELY WHAT JESUS DID

1. Paul tried to show that there was nothing that could be added to what Jesus did on the cross.
 - Some were teaching that salvation was belief in Jesus plus circumcision, keeping the Laws, the rituals and all the former things Jews were required to do.
2. If salvation could be obtained by living right, giving, doing certain things, then Jesus need not have had to go to the cross and die.
3. One's confidence in being saved is not to be placed on anything but what Jesus did on the cross.
4. Human ego demands to be a part in salvation.
 - Human nature must contribute something in some way to being saved:
 - Public service, private devotions, keeping the Golden Rule, attending worship services, giving, serving, etc....
 - Being at the foot of the cross of Jesus, trying to add something to what Jesus has done on the cross is but to sit with the soldiers and watch Jesus die in vain.

III. THE CROSS CANNOT BLESS WHEN CHRISTIANS DON'T SHARE IT

1. *Hebrews 6:1*
2. For a believer to not share what the cross is all about is in a way to declare that the blood of Jesus doesn't work, it avails nothing.
3. Believers cannot back down or back out of witnessing because of threats, disappointments or trials.
- Suffering and loss go with being a Christian for Jesus warned those who thought they wanted to follow Him that they would have to give up everything.
4. To refuse to share the cross of Jesus implies that by one's own choice the cross means nothing in his/her heart.
5. So Christian, if YOU don't witness, if YOU don't share the cross of Jesus with others, it means that the cross of Jesus is not all that important to you.

CONCLUSION:

1. In worship services hymns about the cross of Jesus are often sung, but to how many of those singing those hymns does the cross really mean anything?
2. Does the cross of Jesus stand idle, empty, a symbol meaning nothing, that is powerless in your life?
3. Do you proclaim the cross faithfully?
4. The cross is the power of God and the place of salvation.
5. What has been YOUR attitude toward the cross of Jesus?