

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 7 People at the Cross

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We have all heard sermons about the cross of Jesus Christ and how important it was, what about the people that were there observing Our Saviour die on that cruel cross. In this lesson, we will take a close look at those who were there, and see if we can learn anything from them.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* Many men through the centuries died upon crosses. Only one man was God in a prepared body of flesh, died upon a cross to pay for our sins that one was Jesus Christ. We lift Him up; we magnify Him; we rejoice in Him.

Let me just say to you that He's no longer on that cross. The Bible says: 1 Corinthians 15:3 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:* The gospel is not that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures – the word "and" is mentioned twice in verse 4 that completes verse three. ***And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*** – that is the gospel.

The first group of people who were at the cross were the soldiers, after those strong young men had beaten Him with their fists so that His face was marred beyond recognition (Isaiah 52:14) after they had whipped His back so that the skeleton was exposed (Psalms 129:3) Then they grabbed Him by the His beard, the scriptures say they have torn the beard from His face, then they spit on Him (Isaiah 50:6) They then put a crown of thorns on His sacred head, then beat the thorns into His brow (John 19:2) (Matthew 27:30) they nailed His hands and His feet to the cross they stripped Him naked, divided up His garments gambling for them, as His body hung there dripping with blood from head to toe they just sat down and watched Him. Matthew 27:36 ***And sitting down they watched him there;*** They had done their jobs, with the benefits of robbing another dying man, just another crucifixion in the life of a Roman soldier.

Our next group were most likely those who had seen his miracles, maybe they knew about Lazarus, maybe they were friends with the man blind from his birth that received his sight. You see they too became haughty along with the crowds who did not understand how a man could do all those miracles and yet could not keep himself from being crucified, so they walked by wagging their heads, calling him names as if they were ashamed of Him. Matthew 27:39. ***And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,***

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In both Matthew 27:36&39 the scriptures use the word "*they*" when identifying these groups, let us think about who these really are and if there are any in the 21st century.

THEY....

And sitting down they watched;... they that passed by... Who is at the cross? People from every walk of life.

- Members of **the religious world** are watching Him there:

The four gospels mention the presence of priests, Pharisees, scribes. These different sects of Jewish religion were ordained by God but none could bring salvation.

The **priest** was the man who brought the sacrifices and offered them to God saying here is our offering, our sacrifice, our devotion. Are we now saved? God would say *no...no...that is not good enough.* (Hebrews 10:11)

The **Pharisees**, they were responsible for teaching the commands of God, the ordinances of God and the conduct expected by God to the people. Jesus speaks in the four gospels of how the Pharisees teach men yet do not do what they teach, they revise the laws of God to meet their own selfish desires. Jesus call them sons of the devil, terrible men. (Matthew 23) They are watching Jesus hang on that cross.

The **scribes**... they were the ones that made sure when the old copy of the scriptures wore out there was a new one exactly like it. Written and preserved. These men wrote:

- about piercing of the Messiah.
- about Messiah crying out "I thirst..."
- about a Saviour who would hang upon a cross.

Did they look at what they were reading and say "could this be the one about who we wrote?"

Next at the cross, we see **the political world:**

- **The governor and the king.** Herod denied Jesus before the people, looking rather to see a miracle. Feared the people thinking more about his political office than putting an innocent man to death.

Next at the cross, we see **the judicial world:**

- **The Sanhedrin.** We have the Law, God, the people, who decides? How do we mete out the punishment? How do we dole out the rewards? How do we apply this passage of scripture? That became the job of the Sanhedrin. (The council) In that day like our day, if the Bible is a little too strict, to demanding, then invent a doctrine that suits you better, that is the Sanhedrin. (John 18:14) They watched Jesus die upon that cross.

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Next at the cross, we see **the criminal element**. On either side of Jesus Christ men watched Him die who spent their lifetime dealing in crime.

- One of those men so hardened, so unconcerned about his future died as he lived, cursing the Light of God... dropping straight into hell.
- The other man who saw Jesus for who He was – not a criminal but a righteous man holy man asked " *And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.* (Luke 23:42) The Bible says whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved. And Jesus replied: *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.* (Luke 23:43) He may have been a criminal, but because he repented and called on the Lord, he is now in Heaven.

Next at the cross, we see **The Rich and the Poor**.

- The high priest Caiaphas is there who lives in the palace of the high priests. (Matthew 26:3) Where did that come from? In Deuteronomy 18:1-2 says that priest shall receive no inheritance but to rely upon the offering for their substance. In Leviticus the priests were to live humbly, not to own land or houses. There they are at the cross looking at the Creator of the heavens and the earth hanging naked with nothing in His hands but nails.
- Also standing there at the cross is a woman by the name of Mary. One of the last things Jesus said was to John his fleshly brother, take care of her. Apparently being the mother of the body that housed Son of God the Saviour of sinners did not pay enough to make rent, or buy groceries.

Next at the cross, we see **The Well-known and the Unknown**.

In John 19:25... *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.* The Bible says *many women were there beholding*...Matthew 27:55-56 Who is His mother's sister? Do you know who Jesus Christ died for? He died for the famous, the powerful, also the people that we have never heard of. Aren't we glad that He died for everyone and not just an elect group?

VIEWING THE SAME EVENT

The Bible says, in the second part of our verse, *sitting down they watched him*. How differently do people view the same event?

- The soldiers at the cross, they looked upon Christ with cruelty. Punched Him in the mouth, gambling for His clothes, spit in His face, mock Him with a robe and a reed. They saw someone who was a wimp.

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- The mother of Christ looked on with anguish. She was defenseless to help her son in anyway. The Bible says a sword pierced through her own soul. (Luke 2:35)
- The disciples with looked on Him with perplexity. This one who could walk on water, raise the dead, now is allowing Himself to bleed to death.
- That Centurion looked on Him with amazement, saying to himself: I have never seen a man die without complaining, cursing God. I have never seen a man die nobly, powerfully as though He was defeating death. *Truly this man was the Son of God.*(Mark 15:39)
- The angels looked on with wonder. Here was the God of Heaven dying on a cross.
- Satan watched Him die, believing he had conquered, only to find out again, that he was wrong, he was being defeated by Jesus Christ dying and rising from the dead.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Lamentations 1:12 *Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, (Stop! Look!) and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.*

Here is what you should consider. When you pass by that cross what do you see?

- ✓ Do you see a religious leader who went too far and got in trouble with the government? What do you see?
- ✓ Do you see a prophet who overplayed his hand? What do you see?
- ✓ Do you see a good man dying an unfair and unfortunate death?
- ✓ Do you see the Lamb of God... offering Himself as a sacrifice to pay for your sins?

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son... (...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18 Where you spend eternity will depend upon what you see when you look at the cross. Better take heed to what happened at Calvary.

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Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 7
People at the cross

Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. What is the Gospel?
2. Who were the scribes?
3. Why did the disciples look at Jesus with perplexity?
4. Tell us where the word "and" if left out of the scripture would teach improper doctrine.
5. When Mary the mother of Jesus watched her son dying on the cross, what was she feeling?
6. Why did the soldiers beat Jesus so badly?
7. How could Caiaphas the high priest live in a palace?
8. Explain Lamentations 1:12.

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9. Who were some of the people who watched the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

10. How was Satan conquered?

11. What are some of the things people see when they look at the cross?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

12. What did the thief on the cross have to do to be saved?

13. Who is the "they" now?

True/False

- Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- A wrong look at the cross and you may end up in Hell.
- The soldiers beat and whipped Jesus until He was unrecognizable.

**Scripture memorization**

1 Corinthians 1:18; Hebrews 10:12; Matthew 27:36, 39

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

Any questions?