

## WERE YOU THERE?

LUKE 23:26-49

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

<sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

<sup>28</sup> Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’

<sup>30</sup> Then “‘they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!””

<sup>31</sup> For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there, hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

<sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” <sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

## "Were You There?"

Luke 23:26-49

The passage explores the question of personal involvement in the crucifixion of Jesus by examining the roles of various individuals present during the event.

### **A. Were You There?**

- Draws parallels between memorable historical events and the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Challenges readers to consider their spiritual presence at the crucifixion.

### **B. Nicodemus Was There**

- Nicodemus, initially curious about Jesus, later assists in His burial.
- Despite recognizing Jesus as a teacher, Nicodemus remains silent due to pride.

### **C. Judas Iscariot Was There**

- Judas, motivated by greed, betrays Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
- His betrayal symbolizes the destructive nature of greed.

### **D. Peter Was There**

- Peter denies Jesus three times out of fear, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy.
- Fear and cowardice mark Peter's actions during Jesus' trial and crucifixion.

### **E. The Chief Priests Were There**

- The religious leaders prioritize their authority over recognizing Jesus as the Messiah.
- They reject Jesus' challenge to their power and authority.

### **F. The Pharisees Were There**

- Pharisees uphold religious traditions over embracing Jesus' teachings.
- Their formalism blinds them to the power of God.

### **G. A Host of Indifferent People Were There**

- Many bystanders witness Jesus' crucifixion with indifference, almost treating it as entertainment.

### **H. The Centurion Was There**

- The centurion, witnessing Jesus' death, acknowledges Him as the Son of God.
- What he saw, made him realise Jesus was truly different from any other.
- He recognizes the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and the redemption it offers.

### **I. Were You There When They Crucified the Lord?**

- Emphasizes the indirect but collective responsibility of humanity in Jesus' crucifixion due to sin.
- Encourages repentance and seeking forgiveness for one's sins.

### **J. Conclusion**

- Affirms the universal participation in Jesus' crucifixion through sin.
- Highlights the need for spiritual return to the cross for redemption and forgiveness.

In essence, the passage challenges readers to reflect on their spiritual condition and the role their actions play in the crucifixion narrative, ultimately urging repentance and embracing the redemption offered through Jesus' sacrifice.