

CRUCIFIXION

APRIL 7th | READ MATTHEW 27:24-51; MARK 15:21-47; LUKE 23:26-43; JOHN 19

We live in a political climate today where each political party accuses the other as having committed crimes. These crimes are described as being so heinous that the "...very fabric of our Constitution is in jeopardy." These crimes are described in terms that would lead you to think our republic is on the brink of disaster. We have heard congressional leaders cry wolf so often that the general public is indifferent to the hyperbole. While Congress postures itself, real murders fill our streets. Women and girls are trafficked while our elected officials are enthralled in petty arguments that look more like a junior high food fight than anything substantive. The tragedy is that we have been bombarded with so much sound and fury that we have become calloused to the real crime.

In the story of Jesus' crucifixion, we see not only the hatred of the Jewish hierarchy toward Jesus, but also the manipulation of the current political situation. We see a real insurrectionist go free at the expense of the innocent. We see those who know the truth refuse to act in an honorable way. We see the powerful descend into the dark world of sadistic brutality for the sake of expediency. We see a total miscarriage of justice. We see all these things, and rightly so. But do we see the real crime? Do we see ourselves as guilty and Jesus taking our place?

It is easy to sit back in our comfortable homes and pronounce condemnations on those of Jesus' day while enjoying our coffee. To be sure there is plenty of condemnation to go around! A song written by Johnny Cash asked, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" A better question would be, "Did I have a part in the crucifixion of the Lord?" Until we see ourselves as sinners complicit in the death of Jesus, we will never know the depth of evil in our own hearts. Until we see Jesus Christ as our substitute, we will never know the depth of his love for sinners like us. Until we see that the justice of God was satisfied by the substitutionary death of Jesus, we will carry around our guilt and never know the freedom of forgiveness. It is at the cross of Christ, that one point in time, according to Ravi Zacharias, where evil, love, justice, and forgiveness come together. It is in the cross of Jesus Christ that the evil in our hearts was conquered. The cross of Christ is where the love of God for a lost world is not only displayed but comes forth victorious! The cross of Christ is where the righteous judgment of a Holy God was meted out on His Son. The cross of Christ becomes the very means by which our eternal forgiveness is possible and fulfilled!

Have you considered the implications of the cross of Jesus Christ for you personally? If you would like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, please contact one of the pastors at Currey Creek by emailing info@curreycreek.com.

In Christ,

John