

04 SEPTEMBER 2020

MATTHEW 27:38-42

It is so interesting that the ignorance and disobedience of the world toward the Father blinds their minds to the truth about Jesus. We know this for a fact, but it was so clearly demonstrated at the cross and has been the reason down through the centuries that people have rejected the work of Jesus at Calvary.

The Book of Acts states very clearly the purpose of the Father at the Cross in chapter 2, verse 23 and again in chapter 4, verses 27 and 28. The Father purposed before the foundation of the world by his predetermined plan through His foreknowledge what He predestined to occur in the death and resurrection of Jesus to open up Heaven to a lost world. The Father determined that wicked men should do what they proposed to do, and it would really fulfill His purpose. And you know what that purpose was, to save the very folks who carried out this unbelievable murder of the Son of God.

In our focal passage this morning, the Word says:

38 At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him* and saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

Notice that **verse 40** tells us that those passing by were yelling abuse at Jesus and commanded Him to **SAVE HIMSELF** and **TO COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS IF HE WAS THE SON OF GOD**. The crowds were commanding Him to do the very thing He came not to do - **SAVE HIMSELF**. They could not imagine someone coming to freely give his life for another without any cost or conditions or anything in return except acceptance of the gift he was about to give them. If Jesus had saved Himself, He would have lost the world. The folks hurling abuse thought that His coming down off the cross would have demonstrated that He was the Son of God. Saving Himself would have only demonstrated that He was no better than the folks yelling abuse at the foot of the cross. The crowds would have saved themselves with no thought whatsoever for the life of anyone else. The problem was that they could not save themselves, only Jesus could by sacrificing Himself on the cross.

**Verse 41** relates how the chief priests and the scribes and elders, all the supposedly deeply religious leaders, were mocking Him as well by stating,

without realizing it, the Truth of all the ages that Jesus absolutely could not save Himself because He was the Son of God and had come to give His life for the World He loved. That was the only thing they said that was actually the Truth and they twisted it to be a mockery of His selfless gift of His life for theirs. They used the good works that Jesus did which demonstrated that He truly was the Son of God to sarcastically refute His claims in their eyes because He would not come down from the cross to save Himself. The selfish, ignorant, pagan hearts of all the religious leaders could not imagine someone giving their life freely for another.

Pilate had the phrase THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS written to hang above His head. The religious leaders mockingly declared that if He was the King of the Jews, then let him come down and they would believe in Him. We know they were lying and would certainly not have believed in Him but were just taunting and mocking and trying to get the Son of God to be disobedient to the Father as the world will always try to get the Church, believers, to do. If Jesus had come down from the cross, it would have been irrelevant whether anyone believed in Him or not. The world would have been lost for eternity and Heaven would have been empty and Hell way overcrowded!!!!!!!!!!

The very wickedness that the Father determined evil men would do would fulfill the Father's specific purpose to save those doing it by willingly sacrificing His Son so that the free gift of Salvation would be made available to the world that He loved so much.

What an awesome God we call Father in the name of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit!!!!!!!!!!

**BLESSINGS**