



Conversations around the Cross Matthew 27

Matthew 27:33-44 (NIV)

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

I. The Words of Disrespect

Verse 39 – "Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their head and saying, ... Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

"To be a serious Christian in modern Western culture is to be the easy target of every progressive thinker and every half-witted comedian. It is to have your deepest beliefs on perpetual call for taunts, mockery and desecration. At a time when progressives preach for inclusivity and sensitivity, for the utmost care when speaking of others with differing views, Christians, as Christians, are under a constant hail of abuse and disregard. There is nothing too low or too vulgar."

– Rex Murphy in "The Delight of Mocking Christ and Christianity."

II. The Words of Deception

Verse 41-43 – "In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Matthew 23:27 (NIV)

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

III. The Words of Devotion

Verse 50-54 – "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'"