

Who Was Jesus? | Matthew 27:27–44

The Passion of the Christ

Woody Woodward, our intentional interim pastor, continued the Passion series by walking us through the intense suffering of Jesus in Matthew 27:27–44. This passage reveals how each detail of Jesus' suffering—from the crown of thorns to the placard above his head—points to the reality that Jesus is both Savior and King.

Summary

Jesus' suffering was not arbitrary—it was intentional and rich with meaning. As Pastor Woody pointed out, Matthew's narrative contains eleven signs and six sayings, each one illuminating who Jesus truly is. The signs, including Barabbas' release, the scourging, the crown of thorns, and Jesus being crucified between two criminals, are more than historical details; they are theological symbols that show Jesus reversing the curse of Adam and fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.

Likewise, the mocking words spoken by soldiers and religious leaders—though intended to ridicule—ironically proclaim the truth about Jesus' identity as the King of the Jews and the Savior of the world. His willingness to endure mockery, shame, and death reveals the depth of his love and the magnitude of the price paid for our sin.

Jesus did not save himself so he could save us. His suffering should not only lead us to gratitude but also to reflection, humility, repentance, and faith.

Key Takeaways

- **Jesus is Savior and King.** Every detail of his suffering affirms his divinity and mission.
- **Sin has a price.** Jesus paid it in full through his suffering and death.
- **Jesus endured shame, pain, and mockery to reverse the curse of sin.**
- **The sufferings of Christ speak to every part of our lives:**
 - When tempted to complain, remember his thorns and nails.
 - When frustrated or prideful, remember his humility and rejection.
 - When wronged, remember his prayer for his enemies.
 - When denied your way, remember his obedience unto death.
- **The right response is belief.** Jesus died in our place. Trusting in him brings salvation and eternal life.

Discussing and Applying the Sermon

- Which of the eleven signs or six sayings stood out most to you? Why?
- How does Jesus' suffering shape your view of sin and its seriousness?
- In what area of your life do you need to remember that Jesus is King?
- How can the sufferings of Christ comfort or challenge you in your current season?
- Have you believed in Jesus—not just as a historical figure, but as your personal Savior and King?

About *The Passion of the Christ*

This series explores the final hours of Jesus' life leading up to the resurrection. Each message focuses on a different moment in the Passion narrative, revealing the depth of Christ's love, the gravity of our sin, and the invitation to follow him as Savior and King.