



The Effect of the Crucifixion on Those Who saw It

By Johnny Caruso on December 29, 2022

READING: Matthew 27

Some people believe God does not preform miracles any more. I would say there is no greater miracle than when God transforms someone's heart from a hardened sinner to a humble saint. This is one of the greatest evidences of the power of Jesus' work on the cross. Those who started the day abusing Jesus ended the day witnesses of His true identity. There is no greater example that the cross can change humanity than the reaction of the centurion to what he saw at Calvary. All three of the synoptic Gospels record the life-changing rescue of the centurion on Golgotha that day. Mark records that the centurion was standing opposite Jesus, meaning he was very close, giving him an up-close and personal eye view of that world changing crucifixion.

What made him see the greatness of Jesus that day?

1. Part of it was he saw Jesus loving while all the other people were hating. Those who passed by were mocking Him, but Jesus was blessing. One of the two thieves was cursing his executioners, but Jesus was asking for their forgiveness. He could have called ten thousand angels to His rescue, but of course He didn't.
2. Being that close to God the Son at the moment of the great exchange, the sacrifice of His life for ours, revealed to the centurion that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

It must have been very troubling to the centurion to only realize the truth after Jesus was dead. We are all very much like the centurion. We also come to the cross only to discover that we ourselves are guilty of crucifying the Son of God. We are responsible for nailing Him to the cross that day because God the Son died for us! But He rose again, and it is because of His death and resurrection that we can have a personal relationship with God right now, and will spend eternity with Him. May the weight of that amazing truth never fail to drive us to our knees in worship and thanksgiving!

PRAYER: Lord, our hearts are grateful for the sacrifice and the living example that You showed us on the cross.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 28

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