

## I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 23:32-34,44-46.** (From Wade Webster.)  
And two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. [33] And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. [34] But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves... [44] And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, [45] the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. [46] And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." And having said this, He breathed His last.
- B. The story of the cross should never become old. Yet, with anything we have heard or done, repeatedly, it is possible for the proper impact to be lessened.
- C. This morning, we want to look at the cross--again! Hopefully in a way that will cause you to keep a high level of awe and appreciation while learning something at the same time.

## FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF...

### II. THE JEWISH LEADERS, IT WAS ABOUT **SILENCE.**

- A. Jewish leaders knew that the world was going after Jesus (Mt. 27:18), and they were afraid that the whole world would believe on Him (Jn 11:48).  
(Mt 27:18) For he knew that because of envy they had delivered Him up.  
(Jn 11:48) "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."
- B. When they couldn't stump Him or snare Him with their questions (see Mt. 22:15-17,35), they decided to silence Him by slaying Him (Mt. 26:3-4).  
(Mt 26:3,4) Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; [4] and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth, and kill Him.
- C. As you know, even this didn't work. He arose three days later, and His apostles boldly preached His resurrection (Ac. 5:27-31).  
And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. And the high priest questioned them, [28] saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." [29] But Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We must obey God rather than men. [30] "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. [31] "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

### III. JUDAS, IT WAS ABOUT **SILVER.**

- A. Judas was a thief and a traitor (Jn 12:4-6).  
But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, [5] "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?" [6] Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.
- B. He covenanted with the Jewish leaders to sell Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Mt. 26:15).  
and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

### IV. PILATE, IT WAS ABOUT **SELF-PRESERVATION.**

- A. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent (see Lk. 23:4), but he caved in to Jewish pressure (Mk. 15:15).  
And wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.
- B. Pilate sacrificed Jesus in an effort to save himself (Mt. 27:24).  
And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves."

## V. ROMAN SOLDIERS, IT WAS ABOUT **SPORT**.

- A. The Roman soldiers brought Jesus into the common hall and mocked Him (Mt. 27:27-31).  
Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole *Roman* cohort around Him. [28] And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. [29] And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" [30] And they spat on Him, and took the reed and *began* to beat Him on the head. [31] And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.
- B. At the foot of His cross, they cast lots for His wardrobe as they watched Him writhe in pain (Mt. 27:34,35).  
they gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall; and after tasting *it*, He was unwilling to drink. [35] And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots;

## VI. THE FATHER, IT WAS ABOUT **SUBSTITUTION**.

- A. In His grace, God sent Jesus to taste death for us by taking our place on the cross (Rom. 5:8-10).  
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of *God* through Him. [10] For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
- B. The sacrifice of X sanctifies once for all (Heb. 10:10-14).  
By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. [11] And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; [12] but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, [13] waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. [14] For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

## VII. THE SON, IT WAS ABOUT **SUBMISSION**.

- A. Although the cross meant great shame and suffering for Jesus, He submitted to the Father's will and went to the cross (Phil. 2:8-9).  
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

## VIII. THE SAINTS, IT WAS ABOUT **SALVATION**.

- A. The early Xians saw the cross, and the blood that was shed there, as the means of their salvation (1Cor. 1:18,22-24).  
For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... [22] For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; [23] but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, [24] but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- B. Redemption, forgiveness, and every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:7; 1:3).  
**(Eph 1:7)** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,  
**(Eph 1:3)** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

## IX. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Ask yourself, from your viewpoint, what was the cross about?  
B. Even if you do not answer verbally, your lifestyle will give the answer.  
C. Make the cross of the X, the basis of your life by becoming a Xian.  
D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.