**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Who Crucified Jesus? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Isaiah 53:3-6, Matthew 27:1-44 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2467 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Galatians 6:14
   2. 1 Corinthians 1:18
   3. The cross is something more than a beautiful ornament to wear around your neck.
   4. The cross is something more than an insignia upon a church steeple.
   5. The cross is the turning point of all history.
   6. The cross is God’s testimony to the sinfulness of human nature.
   7. The cross is the mightiest demonstration of the unfathomable love of God.
   8. The cross is the only hope for a dying and rotting society.
   9. Crucifixion was meant to be devastatingly awful.
      1. Jesus hung on the cross for six hours.
   10. Isaiah 53:5-6
   11. This question has been discussed over and over again: who crucified Jesus?
       1. Did the Jewish people crucify Jesus?
          1. His early disciples were of the Jewish faith, and so were the apostles.
             1. Peter, a Jew, preached the great sermon on Pentecost.
             2. Paul, a Jew, was the mightiest missionary who ever lived.
          2. The forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ was from the Jewish faith.
          3. The early church was made up of Jewish people.
          4. Some Jews did participate in the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.
             1. But only ignorance would blame the Jews as the singular people who are responsible for the crucifixion.
          5. One segment of the Jewish community clamored for the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.
             1. Christianity should not be judged by one segment of Christianity, neither should the Jewish faith be judged by this one segment.
          6. Anti-Semitism did not originate from the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ but from the wicked hearts of sinful men.
             1. Anti-Semitism, like all racism, is a distortion of the truth, and it needs to be condemned in all of its forms.
             2. For the past 2000 years, Jews have suffered unmentionable persecution.
             3. The cross does not teach anti-Semitism.

The cross teaches love, reconciliation, and mercy.

* + - * 1. No Christian can ever hate anyone for whom Jesus died.
        2. We should bless God’s chosen people.

Genesis 12:3

* + - 1. One segment of the Jewish community was there at the cross.
    1. Did the Romans crucify Jesus?
       1. The Romans were the actual executioners.
          1. But in a sense, they were only pawns.
          2. The soldiers were obeying orders that came from higher up.
       2. Jesus was crucified with Roman authority, but can we blame the Romans altogether?
    2. Can we blame Pilate?
       1. He tried to wash his hands and protect his innocence.
       2. Was Pilate alone guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?
    3. It was not the Jewish people alone, not the Romans alone, not the soldiers alone, and not Pilate alone who crucified Jesus.
  1. Who crucified Jesus?
     1. He died for the sins of all mankind.
        1. Isaiah 53:5
        2. Our sins were the nails that held Him to the cross.
        3. Our hard hearts were the hammers that drove the nails.
        4. He died for our sins.
  2. What crucified Jesus Christ?
     1. What inclinations are in human nature that caused Jesus to be crucified?
  3. In Matthew 27, we find that a cross-section of humanity was at the crucifixion.
  4. In today’s message, we will look at the different attitudes that crucified Jesus.
     1. We will see not who crucified Jesus, but what crucified Him.
     2. We will find the sin that lurks in our own hearts that crucified the Lord Jesus Christ.
     3. We will look at seven specific things that crucified Jesus.

1. self-righteous religion crucified jesus (matthew 27:1-2)
   1. These were the religious leaders.
      1. Many of them were Pharisees.
         1. The Pharisees were the most religious of the religious.
         2. They kept the Sabbath with great detail and care.
            1. They would not eat an egg that had been laid on the Sabbath.
            2. If they got a tack in the sole of their shoe, they could not take it out on the Sabbath, lest they be accused of working on the Sabbath.
   2. This was a religious crowd, but they still nailed Jesus to the cross.
   3. Many people who attend churches today are religious but lost.
      1. They go through ritual, form, baptism, songs, gifts, and offerings.
      2. Some people will go to Hell with a chest full of Sunday school attendance pins, but they have never received the Lord Jesus Christ.
      3. They have religion, but they don’t have righteousness.
      4. They have culture, but they don’t have Christ.
   4. A Pharisee may appear good from the outside, but their heart is still crooked.
      1. God looks at the heart.
   5. Religion has never saved anyone.
      1. People need to turn from religion to Jesus Christ.
   6. Self-righteous religion crucified Jesus.
      1. If religion could save, then Jesus never would have died.
2. hard-hearted hypocrisy crucified jesus (matthew 27:3-5)
   1. Judas, one of the twelve disciples, betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ unto death for thirty pieces of silver.
      1. Why did he do it?
         1. He was a hypocrite.
   2. Judas never lost his salvation because he never had it.
      1. John 6:64
   3. There are some who will miss Heaven because of a hypocrite.
      1. They will characterize Christianity by a hypocrite.
   4. There always have been hypocrites, and there always will be hypocrites in every area of life.
      1. Some lawyers are shysters.
      2. Some doctors are quacks.
      3. Some money is counterfeit.
         1. Counterfeit money proves the validity and the worthwhile of the real.
   5. Every counterfeit Christian is a testimony to the worth and the validity of the real.
   6. Don’t let a hypocrite like Judas keep you out of Heaven.
      1. There were eleven other disciples who did not stop serving Jesus because of Judas.
      2. Some people say that they don’t want to be in a church with the hypocrites.
         1. If they refuse Jesus, they will be in Hell forever with every one of them.
            1. Don’t let some hypocrite keep you from Jesus Christ.
   7. Hypocrisy crucified the Lord Jesus Christ for thirty pieces of silver.
      1. Judas betrayed Jesus and was eaten up with guilt and remorse but not genuine repentance.
         1. Tormented by his conscience, he went out and hanged himself.
            1. Matthew 27:3-5
            2. Acts 1:18
         2. Sin is not pretty; hypocrisy is terrible.
3. cowardly compromise crucified jesus (matthew 27:11-13, 24-26)
   1. Matthew 27:11-13
      1. The governor was Pilate.
   2. Matthew 27:24-26
   3. Pilate was a fence-straddling politician.
   4. Jesus, to Pilate, was an uncomfortable fact.
      1. He had Jesus on his hands.
      2. He had to do something with Jesus.
   5. Pilate sinned because he was a coward.
   6. God had spoken to Pilate.
      1. The voice of reason spoke to Pilate.
         1. Pilate was a wise man in the flesh.
         2. Pilate knew human nature.
            1. Matthew 27:18

He knew that for envy they had delivered Jesus.

* + 1. The voice of revelation spoke to Pilate.
       1. Pilate’s wife had warned him because God had sent her a dream.
          1. Matthew 27:19
    2. The voice of conscience spoke to Pilate.
       1. Matthew 27:22-23
       2. Pilate, in his conscience, knew that Jesus was innocent.
  1. There were those who told Pilate that if he did not find Jesus worthy of death, then he would be held guilty of sedition against Caesar.
     1. Pilate had to make up his mind.
        1. He knew what he was doing was wrong, but he was a coward.
        2. What buttered his bread determined his conduct.
           1. He was like many people today who compromise and say, “Well, a person has to live.”

No, a person has to die; and he has to face God.

* 1. Pilate tried to make no decision at all, but history shows that indecision is the worst decision.
     1. Jesus said that he who is not with Me is against Me.
        1. Matthew 12:30
     2. We cannot listen to the Gospel and refuse to make a decision because of what it might cost us without peril to our soul.
  2. The things that Pilate sought, he lost.
     1. The robe that adorned his back soon adorned someone else’s back.
     2. The gavel that he held in his hand was soon held by another hand.
     3. The position that he coveted, he lost.
  3. History tells us that Pilate died of suicide because he was a coward.
     1. He would not take a stand for the Lord Jesus Christ.
  4. The devil will intimidate you with fear.
     1. Revelation 21:8 speaks of those who are going to die and go to Hell.
        1. Number one on the list is the fearful.
           1. The Bible says that the fear of man brings a snare.

Proverbs 29:25

1. thoughtless conformity crucified jesus (matthew 27:20)
   1. Pilate tried to escape making a decision by giving the people a choice.
      1. They could release Barabbas, a notorious criminal, murderer, and seditionist or Jesus Christ.
         1. They chose to release Barabbas and said “Crucify Jesus”.
            1. Matthew 27:15-22
   2. Why did they choose Barabbas over the Lord Jesus Christ?
      1. Their leaders persuaded them that Jesus should be crucified.
      2. They went along with the crowd.
         1. The crowd is most always wrong.
         2. They just conformed to the crowd.
      3. Some might say that they didn’t know better.
         1. But ignorance is not innocence.
         2. They could have known better.
         3. They should have known better.
         4. Others knew better.
   3. The biggest cult is the cult of conformity.
   4. Jesus will reveal Himself to you.
      1. You can listen to the media.
      2. You can listen to all of the naysayers.
      3. You can let other people persuade you.
      4. Or, you can ask God to show you about Jesus Christ.
   5. Careless conformity crucified the Lord Jesus Christ.
   6. The crowd mostly is eternally lost.
      1. Matthew 7:13
2. hard-hearted cruelty crucified jesus (matthew 27:27-31)
   1. In this passage, “reed” means a bamboo club.
   2. The men who brutalized Jesus, mocked Him, beat Him, whipped Him, scourged Him, and finally nailed Him to the cross, were hard-hearted men.
      1. They were brutal.
      2. They were probably psychopathic who took pleasure in giving pain.
   3. We live in a world like this today.
      1. There are those who literally hate the Lord Jesus Christ and who rejoice in the crucifixion.
   4. May God have mercy upon a heart that is so hard that it is not moved by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
   5. Are you a soldier at the cross or a soldier of the cross?
      1. You are either one or the other.
3. casual indifference crucified jesus (matthew 27:36)
   1. This verse speaks of the general crowd.
   2. They were not outwardly fighting Jesus.
      1. They were onlookers.
         1. They were looking at Jesus, not looking unto Jesus.
   3. They may have had some sentimental thought, but they never lined up with Jesus.
      1. Luke 23:48
      2. It takes more than a sentimental gesture to save a soul.
      3. It takes more than a crocodile tear at His suffering to save a soul.
   4. These people were simply observing.
   5. People will go to church, listen to a preacher preach, try to understand it, take a few notes, but it never changes their life.
      1. They have no more inclination to obey than they would to be changed by something they saw last night on television.
      2. Church attendance to them is a Sunday morning form of culture and entertainment.
   6. Complacency crucified Jesus.
4. cynical skepticism crucified jesus (Matthew 27:39-44)
   1. What we have in this passage is skepticism.
      1. Our world is full of skepticism.
      2. They misquoted Jesus’ words.
         1. “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*.”
            1. Matthew 27:40
            2. Jesus was speaking of the temple of His body.
      3. They mocked Jesus’ deity.
         1. “*If You are the Son of God*…”
      4. They minimized Jesus’ death.
         1. “*Come down from the cross, and save Thyself*.”
   2. They were cynics.
      1. A cynic is someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.
      2. Cynicism is perhaps the worst of all the attitudes mentioned in today’s message.
   3. A man is not a sinner because he is a skeptic; he is a skeptic because he is a sinner.
   4. Cynicism and skepticism come out of the heart.
      1. It is not that someone has intellectual problems; they have dirty, rotten sin.
      2. Hebrews 3:12
      3. It is not that they cannot believe; they will not believe.
         1. There are intellectuals who don’t believe the Bible and intellectuals who do.
         2. There are some foolish people who believe the Bible and some who don’t.
            1. Intellect has nothing to do with it.
   5. What we believe is not contrary to reason; it is beyond reason.
      1. Why is it that someone like the apostle Paul would believe in Jesus Christ?
         1. Because Jesus is real.
   6. Don’t let your skepticism take you to Hell.
5. CONCLUSION
   1. These are attitudes that crucify.
      1. This is what nailed Jesus to the cross.
      2. In spite of these attitudes, God allowed His Son to die in agony and blood.
   2. Romans 8:32
      1. This was judgment at its surest.
         1. When the sin of the world was upon the Lord Jesus Christ, God did not spare Jesus.
         2. When Jesus Christ bore your sin, God did not spare Him.
            1. What makes you think that God will spare you if you reject Jesus?
      2. This is love at its greatest.
         1. If there were ever a promise that God would have changed His mind on, then it would have been this one, to let Jesus die.
         2. God kept this promise, and He will keep every other promise.
            1. God spared not His own Son.
      3. This is grace at its fullest.
         1. God delivered Him up freely for us all.
         2. If God would give Jesus, then there is nothing else He would withhold.
         3. With Jesus, we get it all.
   3. Who crucified Jesus?
      1. We did.
   4. What crucified Jesus?
      1. Self-righteous religion
      2. Hard-hearted hypocrisy
      3. Cowardly compromise
      4. Thoughtless conformity
      5. Hard-hearted cruelty
      6. Casual indifference
      7. Cynical skepticism
   5. Isaiah 53:5
   6. Salvation is a gift.
      1. None deserve it.
      2. None can earn it.
      3. Anyone can receive it.
      4. Matthew 11:28
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16