



**Prairie
Tabernacle**

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Tim Strickland

The Cross
Various Passages

Matthew 27:33-54 ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. ⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Introduction: The Cross

The Cross of Christ is the center of your faith

- *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*
1 Corinthians 2:10 (see also 1 Cor 1:23)
- *But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*
Galatians 6:14

1. The Cross is the place where God shows His love for you

Key Word: Love

- *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8
- *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* 1 John 4:10
- See also John 3:16

2. The Cross is the place where God punishes Christ for your sins

Key Word: Substitutionary Atonement – God sheds Jesus' blood instead of yours

- *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"* Galatians 3:13

Key Word: Propitiation – God's wrath is satisfied through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross

- *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.* Romans 3:23-25a
- See also: Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:1-2, Is 53:5-6,10

3. The Cross is the place where you are Identified with Christ

Key Word: Identification

- *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* Galatians 2:20

4. The Cross is the place where you are Redeemed

Key Word: Redemption

- *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,⁸ which he lavished upon us,* Ephesians 1:7-8a

5. The Cross is the place where you are Reconciled to God and to one another

Key Word: Reconciliation

- *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.* Colossians 1:19-20

6. The Cross is the Place where you are Justified

Key Word: Justification

- *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.* Romans 5:9-11

7. The Cross is the place of your weakness and humility, but it points to your place of power and glory in Christ

Key Words: Humility and Exaltation

- *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* Philippians 2:8-9
- *For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.* 2 Corinthians 13:4

8. The Cross is the Place of your Triumph in Christ

Key Word: Victory

- *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.* Colossians 2:13-14

9. The Cross is the Place of your Salvation

Key Word: Salvation

- *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.* Romans 5:9-11

10. The Cross is the Place of your Obedience by Faith

Key Phrase: The Cross-Centered Life

- *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23*
- *Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.* Luke 14:27
- See page 4, Application Question #3 of these notes for ideas how to live "The Cross Centered Life" (source: C.J. Mahaney)

Our Response

1. If you have never trusted in Jesus as your Saviour, trust in Him today! Ask Jesus to save you from your sins, that you might receive the gift of eternal life, and spend forever with Him in Heaven.
2. Live your life with the Cross of Christ at the center

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
Galatians 2:20

Questions for Personal Application & Small Group Discussion

1. Which of the Key Words about the Cross most impacted you today? Why?
2. Do you live thinking about the cross each day? Why or Why not?
3. In his book, The Cross Centered Life, Pastor C.J. Mahaney suggests five practical ways to keep the cross at the center of your life. How might you put these into action in your life?
 1. Memorize the gospel – recite some of the great verses about the cross each day (you can start with verses in today’s sermon notes!)
 2. Pray the gospel – Talk to God about the gospel and thank Him for His amazing grace in saving you from your sins through Christ’s death on the cross.
 3. Sing the gospel – Have music in your life that centers on the gospel and praise God through it – whether it is your own music or a great worship CD (some are better than others!)
 4. Review how the gospel has changed you – Recall regularly how you once were in your sin, (like Paul does in Scripture – ‘chief of sinners’) and rejoice in what you now are, in Christ through the cross
 5. Study the gospel – Read and re-read Galatians and Romans. Read good books about the gospel (such as C.J. Mahaney’s The Cross Centered Life, L.E. Maxwell’s Born Crucified (aka Embraced by the Cross))
6. Spend some time praying for one or two unbelievers you know, that they would receive salvation through Jesus. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with them, and watch for God to answer your prayer! Pray also that you would live the ‘cross centered life’.

Questions, Comments?

If you have questions or comments about today’s message, please send me an email at this address:
questions4tim@prairietab.com

Thanks, Tim

