

# PLAYING GAMES AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

## LUKE 23:27-56

Text: Luke 23:34-37

### **Luke 24:34-37**

<sup>34</sup> Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

<sup>35</sup> And they told what things *were done* in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. <sup>36</sup> And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

Introduction:

We find in our text the vivid description as to the activities surrounding the death of Jesus. As we read there were those that were casting lots, talking with derision, while others were mocking and making fun of the Lord. These people were playing games at the foot of the cross.

Today, the games are still going on. People make fun of, make light of, true Christianity. Not only is the lost world playing games, there are those that claim to have been born again playing games as well. They come to church out of convenience, or Easter Sunday. They only pray when there is a problem. Blow the dust

off their Bible when they pick it up. Laugh and make fun of those who have sold out for the Lord. Refer to those with standards as being legalistic. They too are just playing games, much like they did on crucifixion.

Notice with me this morning:

## **1. THE PLACE OF THE CROSS (VS. 33)**

(Luke 23:33 KJV) "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."

### A. Golgotha

1. Place known as the skull.
2. Place seen from miles away.
3. Place of love ... yet of judgment.
4. Place of grace ... yet fulfills demands of the law.
5. Place of salvation ... yet reminds us of our sins.
6. Place where man did his worst ... and God did His best.

## 2. THE PEOPLE AT THE CROSS (vs. 35)

Every class of person was there, and He died for every class of person.

(Luke 23:35 KJV) "And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."

(Matthew 27:36 KJV) "And sitting down they watched him there;"

### A. Government people (vss. 29-35)

(Matthew 27:29-35 KJV) "And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! {30} And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. {31} And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. {32} And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. {33} And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, {34} They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. {35} And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting

lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."

1. The soldiers.
2. Pilate

#### B. Social Failures (vss. 38)

(Matthew 27:38 KJV) "Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left."

1. Something had gone wrong in their lives.
2. The high hope of their parents.
3. Their own early hope and dreams.
4. The efforts of society to keep them straight.
5. Jesus came to meet troubled people and change them.

#### C. Religious crowd (vss. 41)

(Matthew 27:41-42 KJV) "Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, {42} He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

1. Their religion was all outward to impress.
2. They were the main accusers in getting Jesus to the cross.
3. They thought that this would secure their position.
4. Instead, Christ's death broke their power, and fulfilled the law.

#### D. Backsliders (Matt 26:69-75)

(Matthew 26:69-75 KJV) "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. {70} But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. {71} And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. {72} And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. {73} And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for

thy speech bewrayeth thee. {74} Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. {75} And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."

1. Peter, who had declared he would never forsake Jesus.
2. Peter who chose the crowd and followed afar off.
3. Peter who denied the Lord three times.
4. Peter who went out and wept bitterly
5. Backsliders can return to Jesus and be forgiven. (1 John 1:9)

E. Broken hearted were there (John 19:25-27)

(John 19:25-27 KJV) "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. {26} When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! {27} Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."

1. The faithful few at the cross.

2. Jesus died to take those tears and give you joy.

F. Bystander (vss. 54)

(Matthew 27:54 KJV) "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."

1. Believed and was saved

2. Is a good example to follow

### **3. THE PERSON ON THE CROSS**

A. The Son of God

B. Jehovah

C. I am

D. Alpha & Omega

E. Beginning & End

F. First & Last

- G. The Word
- H. A Man approved of God.
- I. A Servant
- J. Jesus a Name Above all Names
- K. Lamb of God
- L. The Good Shepherd
- M. The Way
- N. The Truth
- O. The Life
- P. Tree of Life
- Q. The True Vine
- R. Bread of Life
- S. Rose of Sharon
- T. Lily of the Valley
- U. The Light of the world



V. The bright and Morning Star.

W. Strong Tower

X. Refuge from the storm

Y. Rock of Ages

Z. The Foundation

AA. A Stone

BB. Precious Stone

CC. A Ransom

DD. The Mediator

EE. The Redeemer

FF. The Faithful Witness

GG. The Amen

HH. The Just One

II. The Holy One

JJ. The Resurrection

KK. The Author and Finisher of Faith

LL. The Deliver

MM. The Lion of the tribe of Judah

NN. The Shield

OO. The Prince of Peace

PP. King of Kings

QQ. Lord of Lords

## **4. THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS (1 JOHN 3:5-8; 4:9)**

(1 John 3:5-8 KJV) "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. {6} Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. {7} Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. {8} He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

(1 John 4:9 KJV) "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only

begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

A. He came to take away our sins (vss. 5)

(1 John 3:5 KJV) "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

1. We are all sinners (Rom 3:23)

(Romans 3:23 KJV) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

a. Sin brings sorrow, pain and death  
(Rom 5:12)

(Romans 5:12 KJV) "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

b. Jesus came to bring us eternal  
life (Rom 6:23)

(Romans 6:23 KJV) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Jesus loves sinners (Rom 5:8)

(Romans 5:8 KJV) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

B. He came to destroy the works of the Devil  
(vss. 8)

(1 John 3:8 KJV) "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

1. Saving those that trust Him.

(John 6:37 KJV) "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

2. Changing lives

(2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV) "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

3. Setting the captive free.

(John 8:36 KJV) "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

C. He came to show the Fathers Love (4:9)

(1 John 4:9 KJV) "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."

### 1. God loved us first

(1 John 4:10 KJV) "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Close:

Have you accepted Him as your personal Saviour or are you playing games at the foot of the cross?

Are you living for Him today or are you playing games at the foot of the cross.

Are you encouraging others to trust Christ or are you playing games at the foot of the cross?