
Compare your childhood view of the crucifixion with how you view it as an adult.

15:21-24 (NIV)

A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

A Rufus is also mentioned by Paul in Romans 16:13: "*Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.*"

Why do you think *they forced him to carry the cross*?

What might be reasons why the location where Jesus died (Golgotha/Calvary) is mentioned?

Read Psalm 69:19-21. What clue might that give us as to why Jesus refused the drink?

And they crucified him. What is all included in that brief sentence?

How was the division of Jesus' clothes a part of his suffering?

15:25-32

It was the third hour when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: The King of the Jews. They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You

who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

What was Jesus charged with?

What is the significance of Jesus' placement with two robbers?

Name the three groups who took verbal shots at Jesus.

What was especially evil about the insults from the passers-by?

What was especially evil about the mockery from the chief priests and teachers of the law?

15:33-39

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Why doesn't a natural solar eclipse explain the darkness?

Why do you think the darkness came?

Compare Jesus' words on Golgotha ("My God") with those in Gethsemane ("Abba, Father").

Why does Elijah keep getting mentioned?

Jesus breathed his last. What is so comforting about that terrible statement?

What vindications did Jesus receive immediately following his death?

What Good Friday practices, either personal or in public worship, have had meaning for you?

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. (CW 125)*