

Sermons - 2007

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Table of Contents

1. Were You There?.....	1
Introduction:	1
Had you been there, what would you have seen?	1
Oh, but you WERE there!.....	2
Conclusion:.....	4

Chapter 1. Were You There?

(Good Friday Sermon)

READ - *Mark 15*

TEXT - *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

THEME - When Jesus died on the cross, He died FOR YOU and AS YOU.

Introduction:

Randolph Christian Church is a time machine this evening. It is somewhere around 33 AD, and we are hovering in our time machine over the village of Jerusalem. Night is falling there, just as it is here. What do we see?

It is Sabbat, and Jewish families gather around their tables in celebration. But as we look in on those observances, the conversations seem different. Something has apparently happened today. As we listen in from house to house we hear snatches of conversation, like:

- But it was only a week ago that we thought He would be king.
- Did you see how they beat Him? What did He do to deserve that? I've never seen so much blood.
- I never saw or heard of Him doing anything except good. Why would they kill Him?
- I heard that Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd and disavowed responsibility for the whole thing. What a hypocrite.
- Well I heard that the chief priests stirred everybody up and demanded Pilate release Barrabas instead of Him, you remember Barrabas - that murderer!
- Did you see Him on that cross? The Romans are such animals. How could they come up with such an inhumane method of execution?
- And what about that darkness? I've never been so frightened in my life. Who ever heard of the sun disappearing from the sky at high noon? It was as dark as night!
- I saw my father today. My father has been dead for years, and yet he walked up to me in the street... right about the same time people were running out of the temple yelling that the veil was torn. My father is dead, and yet I saw him alive in the street!
- This has been a strange day. I wonder what God has done here today.

Had you been there, what would you have seen?

1. First hour - 6:00 AM until 9:00 AM

- The trial is over and Jesus is condemned - *Mark 15:1*
- He is sent to Pilate, and then to Herod, then back to Pilate
- He is flogged / scourged - *Mark 15:15*

ILLUS - The Romans used a whip made of several strips of leather (9 - cat of nine tails) into which were embedded (near the ends) pieces of bone and metal. The Jews limited the number of stripes to a maximum of 40 (in practice to 39 in case of a miscount), but no such limitation was recognized by the Romans, and victims of Roman floggings often did not survive.

Chapter 1. Were You There?

- The soldiers crown Him with thorns - *Mark 15:17*
 - The soldiers mock Him and "worship" Him - *Mark 15:18-19*
 - The soldiers club Him, punch Him in the face, and spit on Him - *Mark 15:19*
 - He is led away, forced to carry His cross.
 - Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry His cross for Him. *Mark 15:21*
2. Third hour - 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM
- He is crucified - *Mark 15:25*
 - *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* *Luke 23:34*
 - The soldiers gamble for His clothing - *Mark 15:24*
 - The crowd and rulers; even those dying with Him, mock Him on the cross, and insult Him - *Mark 15:29-32*
- Note:** But even here in His dying moments Jesus cared about those who were around Him. He saved one of those thieves when he cried out for salvation. *Luke 23:40-43*
- "Woman, behold your son..." *John 19:26-27*)
3. Sixth hour - 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM
- Sun disappears - darkness for 3 hours - *Mark 15:33*
 - *"My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken me?"* *Matthew 27:46*
 - *"I thirst"* - *John 19:28-29*
4. Ninth hour - 3:00 PM until 6:00 PM
- *"It is finished"* *John 19:30*
 - *"Into Thy hands I commend my spirit."* *Luke 23:46*
 - Christ gives up the ghost - voluntarily dies - *Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46*
 - The soldier tests to see whether He is truly dead - pierces His side with a spear - *John 19:34*
 - Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for the body. (*Mark 15:43*)
 - Joseph and Nicodemus partially prepare the body for burial, and place Him in a borrowed tomb - *Mark 15:46-47*
5. Sabbath begins - 6:00 PM
- Jesus is dead, and in the tomb - *Matthew 27:57; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54*

Had you been there that day, that is what you would have seen.

Oh, but you WERE there!

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

I am crucified WITH CHRIST!

SONG (Florida Boys):
I'M NOT ON AN EGO TRIP
I'M NOTHING ON MY OWN
I MADE MISTAKES I OFTEN SLIP
JUST COMMON FLESH AND BONES
BUT I'LL PROVE SOMEDAY JUST WHY I SAY
I'M OF A SPECIAL KIND
FOR WHEN HE WAS ON THE CROSS
I WAS ON HIS MIND.

THE LOOK OF LOVE WAS ON HIS FACE
THORNS WERE ON HIS HEAD
THE BLOOD WAS ON HIS SCARLET ROBE
STAINED A CRIMSON RED
THOUGH HIS EYES WERE ON THE CROWD THAT DAY
HE LOOKED AHEAD IN TIME
FOR WHEN HE WAS ON THE CROSS
I WAS ON HIS MIND.

CHORUS:
HE KNEW ME, YET HE LOVED ME
HE WHOSE GLORY MAKES THE HEAVENS SHINE
SO UNWORTHY OF SUCH MERCY
YET WHEN HE WAS ON THE CROSS
I WAS ON HIS MIND.

Every sin you would ever commit (and they were all future at the time, so it doesn't matter whether they are in your past, present or future) were laid ON HIM on that cross.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

"I am crucified with Christ..." - When He died, He died for you, and He died AS YOU. You were there.

SONG - Were You There - We often sing it this time of year, but we could change the words tonight:

YOU WERE THERE when they crucified my Lord!
YOU WERE THERE when they crucified my Lord!
Oh! Doesn't it cause you to tremble, tremble, tremble?
YOU WERE THERE when they crucified my Lord!

YOU WERE THERE when they nailed Him to the tree!
YOU WERE THERE when they nailed Him to the tree!
Oh! Doesn't it cause you to tremble, tremble, tremble?
YOU WERE THERE when they nailed Him to the tree!

YOU WERE THERE when they laid Him in the tomb!
YOU WERE THERE when they laid Him in the tomb!
Oh! Doesn't it cause you to tremble, tremble, tremble?
YOU WERE THERE when they laid Him in the tomb!

It's funny, isn't it, how we often stand in judgement of those who played a part in Christ's death. But you are just as culpable - just as guilty - just as responsible for what happened that day.

Chapter 1. Were You There?

- You were one of the priests - condemning Him to death.
- You were Pilate - thinking you could just walk away and the whole thing would go away.
- You were the soldiers - mocking, insulting, laughing, beating.
- You were the man or woman in the crowd crying out, just do one more miracle Jesus, and then I'll believe.
- You were the thief - dying with Him, and yet refusing to believe in Him.

Conclusion:

Yes, if Randolph Christian Church was a time machine tonight, you could go back to Jerusalem on that day, and see some amazing things. But to see the most amazing thing of all, you would have to look into the dying Savior's heart. For if you did peer into the depths of His heart that day, you would see yourself.

Thank God for the cross. And thank God that the story doesn't end with the cross. We know this amazing story gets even more amazing, and we'll talk that on Sunday morning. For now, let us remember the cross. Let us give it a place of prominence in our thought, even as the Apostle Paul did:

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Galatians 6:14)