

Statements To The Cross – Galatians 6:14

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Introduction

1. Mankind finds itself at the cross - a motley crowd. There are enemies, the curious, the flippant, the undivided, the scared disciples, and the loved ones (including Mary, the mother). We are all there. Let us evaluate the statements made to the cross.

I. A Crossless Christianity

- a. "Come down" (Matthew 27:39-40; Mark 15:29-32)
 - i. The Jews wanted Jesus to perform signs but what good would they have accomplished? They were using the glory of Christ to mock Him.
 - ii. Men's demands are unreasonable. "Do this and then I will believe" they said. This is pure manipulation. Do we do this? We cannot negotiate our terms of acceptance.

II. Negative Thinking Turned Positive

- a. "Remember me" (Luke 23:39-43)
 - i. A dying thief is still "mean as a snake." The other thief changed and acknowledged their guilt and innocence of Jesus. He just wished to be remembered. Men must see their sin and their need for a savior.

III. "Pull A Rabbit Out Of The Hat" Idea

- a. "Save yourself" (Luke 23:36-37; Matthew 27:39-43)
 - i. Paradoxically, this is the only thing Jesus could not do. Read Luke 22 when Jesus sweated blood praying this same prayer. Herod and the Jews wanted miracles and people still do today.
 - ii. People want excitement in preaching and worship. They see Jesus as if He is some drug to get high on. This reduces Christianity to childishness.

IV. Bystanders

- a. "Gawkers" (Matthew 27:47-49; Mark 15:35-36)
 - i. These are the ones who came to the cross to "see the spectacle." Many Christians today are spectators instead of participants. The cross demands commitment and action.

V. Another Roll Of The Dice

- a. "Let us...cast lots for it" (John 19:25-35)
 - i. Men had no problem saving an expensive robe and killing a man. Things were of more importance than people. Too many today are still this way!

VI. Too Little, Too Late

- a. "Give me the body" (John 19: 38-42)
 - i. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were secret disciples who came for the body of Jesus. They were too afraid until it was too late. Potential? Too many today are missing out on what's best for what's easiest.

VII. The Only Conclusion

- a. "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39)
 - i. The centurion stared more intently; he watched every movement - he heard every word. The conclusion was obvious! What will our decision be?