

The Gospel according to Luke: The Cross
Luke 23:1-56



"Alexamenos worships his God."

Rejected by All (vv. 1-25)

- Rejected by Pilate.
- Rejected by Herod.
- Rejected by His own.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Crucified between Thieves (vv. 26-43)

- At the cross we are reminded of the urgency of salvation.
- At the cross we are reminded of the nature of salvation.

I simply argue that the cross should be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles but on a cross between two thieves; on the town's garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died for. And that is what he died about. That is where churchmen ought to be and what churchmen ought to be about. (George MacLeod)

Forsaken by God (vv. 44-49)

- Jesus was forsaken...

Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?" "And on that day," declares the Lord God, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day." (Amos 8:8-10)

- So that those who trust in Him never will be.

The heart of the cross

The concept of substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting while the essence of salvation is God substituting asserts himself against God and puts himself God sacrifices himself for man and be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which

(John 8:44) in an alone.

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of both sin
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him self for man. M
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Buried in a Tomb (vv. 50-56)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)