



**What's at the Foot of the Cross?
March 27-28, 2021**

The Roman Centurion

His Strength and Struggles:

- **Powerful** – he was in charge of at least 100 foot soldiers
- **Productive** – too busy for meaningful relationships
- **Proud** – self-made and unwilling to ask for help
- **Pretentious** – always looking good and looking to impress the Governor

Mark 15:16-20 (NIV)

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Psalms 22:1, 6-8 (NIV); 16-18 (TPT)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?... But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."... They have pierced my hands and my feet. Like a pack of wild dogs they tear at me, swirling around me with their hatred. They gather around me like lions to pin my hands and feet. All my bones stick out. Look at how they all gloat over me and stare! With a toss of the dice they divide my clothes among themselves, gambling for my garments!

What's at the Foot of the Cross?

1 A fulfilling life of selfless service

- **The Centurion**

Matthew 8:6-9 (TPT)

"Lord," he said, "I have a son who is lying in my home, paralyzed and suffering terribly." Jesus responded, "I will go with you and heal him." But the Roman officer interjected, "Lord, who am I to have you come into my house? I understand your authority, for I too am a man who walks under authority and have authority over soldiers who serve under me. I can tell one to go and he'll go, and another to come and he'll come. I order my servants and they'll do whatever I ask. So I know that all you need to do is to stand here and command healing over my son and he will be instantly healed."

- **The Savior**

Matthew 8:10-13 (TPT)

Jesus was astonished when he heard this and said to those who were following him, "He has greater faith than anyone I've encountered in Israel!" ... Then Jesus turned to the Roman officer and said, "Go home. All that you have believed for will be done for you!" And his son was healed at that very moment.

Acts 20:35 (ICB)

"I showed you in all things that you should work as I did and help the weak. I taught you to remember the words of Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

2 A dignified life of personal sacrifice

Matthew 26:53-56 (ICB)

"Surely you know I could ask my Father, and he would give me more than 12 armies of angels. But this thing must happen this way so that it will be as the Scriptures say." Then Jesus said to the crowd, "You came to get me with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal. Every day I sat in the Temple teaching. You did not arrest me there. But all these things have happened so that it will be as the prophets wrote." Then all of Jesus' followers left him and ran away.

Galatians 2:20-21 (NIV)

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

3 A courageous life of passionate purpose

Mark 15:11-15 (TPT)

But the ruling priests stirred up the crowd to incite them to ask for Barabbas instead. So Pilate asked them, "Then what do you want me to do with this one you call the king of the Jews?" They all shouted back, "Crucify him!" "Why?" Pilate asked. "What evil thing has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting out with a deafening roar, "Crucify him at once!" Because he wanted to please the people, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus severely beaten with a whip made of leather straps and embedded with metal, he sentenced him to be crucified.

1 Peter 2:8-9 (TPT)

And a stone that makes them stumble and a rock to trip over. They keep stumbling over the message because they refuse to believe it. And this they were destined to. But you are God's chosen treasure—priests who are kings, a spiritual "nation" set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders throughout the world.

4**A powerful life of forgiveness and grace****Matthew 27:45-46 (TPT)**

For three hours, beginning at noon, darkness came over the earth. And at three o'clock Jesus shouted with a mighty voice in Aramaic, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"—that is, "My God, My God, why have you deserted me?"

John 19:30 (NIV)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Mark 15:37-39 (NLT)

Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Acts 10:43 (NIV)

"All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Romans 11:6 (TPT)

And since it is by God's grace, it can't be a matter of their good works; otherwise, it wouldn't be a gift of grace, but earned by human effort.

Memory Verse for March, 2021**John 11:25 (NIV)**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."



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