



- Psalm 22:16-17
- Luke 23:35, 48



- Seen in movies: westerns and dark ages: executions were a moment that people gathered for.
- Roman government made sure that executions were something to be seen.



- This Spectacle



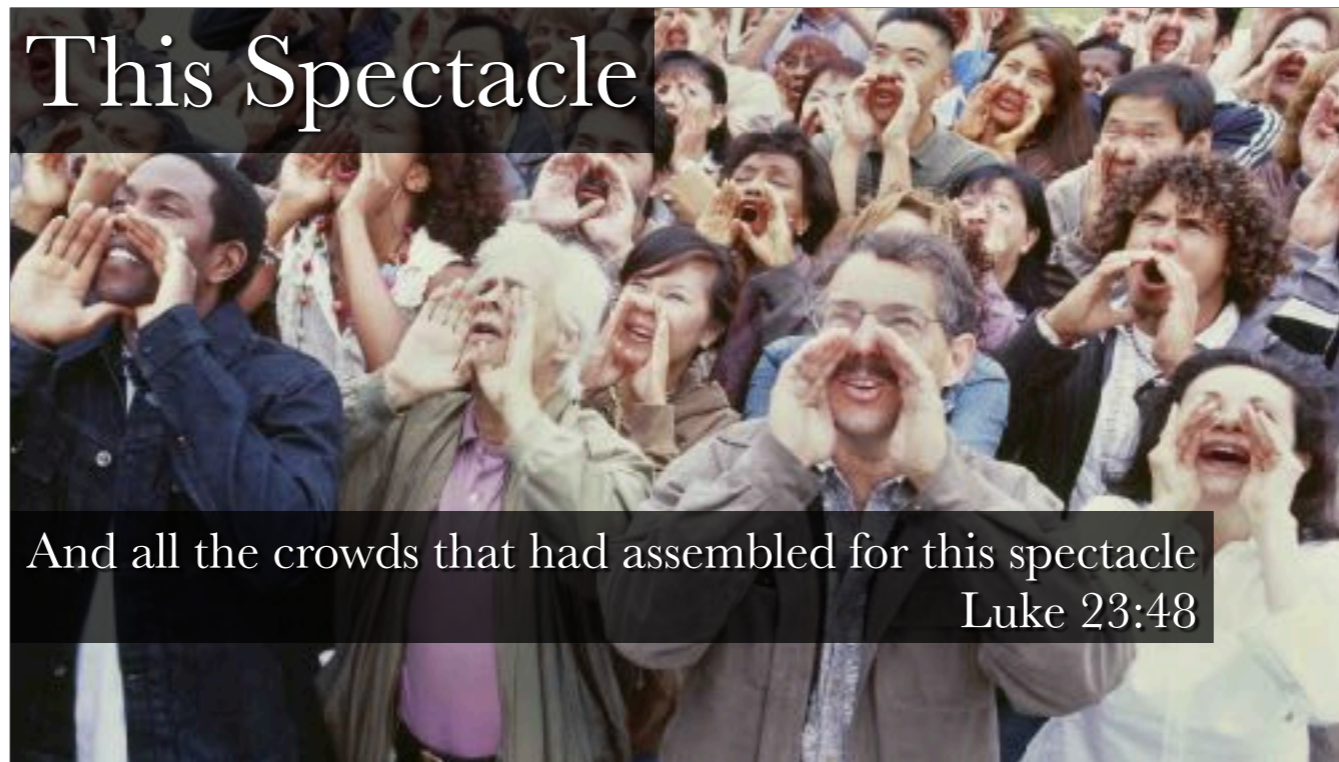
- Psalms 22:16-18 — For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.



This Spectacle

the people stood by, watching
Luke 23:35

- Luke 23:35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”



- Luke 23:48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.
- Death and resurrection of Jesus.
- There are many different perspectives.
- The more we see, and the better we see, the more we understand why we glory only in the cross.



What Did They See?

- What did they see as Jesus was crucified?



- Pilate:
 - 18:36: My kingdom is not of this world.
 - 18:37: So you are are king?
 - 18:38: I find no guilt in him.
 - 19:4: I find no guilt in this man
 - 19:6: I find no guilt in him
 - 19:14: to the Jews — “Behold your King!”
 - Jews: Away with him, away with him
 - 15: Shall I crucify your king?



- John 19:19-22 (ESV)

- 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."



- Pilate saw something in Jesus that the Jews refused to recognize
 - He saw innocence
 - He maybe saw the best of the Jews?
 - Jesus is king



- Soldiers: John 19:23-24 (ESV)
 - 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things,
- Personal gain?
- At this point, the death of Jesus was ordinary ... death of another criminal



- Passers By: Mark 15:29-30 (ESV)
- 29 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!”
- Just the joy of mocking
 - They don’t see any way that this is meaningful or escapable for Jesus
 -



- Jewish Leaders: Mark 15:31-32 (ESV)
- 31 So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. 32 Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”
- mocked to one another ... using Jesus’ words against him
- mocking the idea of salvation
- mocking the king (which Pilate recognized)
- mocking belief



- Criminals: Luke 23:39-43 (ESV)
- 39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- Mocking using Jesus’ claims against him
- Salvation: kingdom



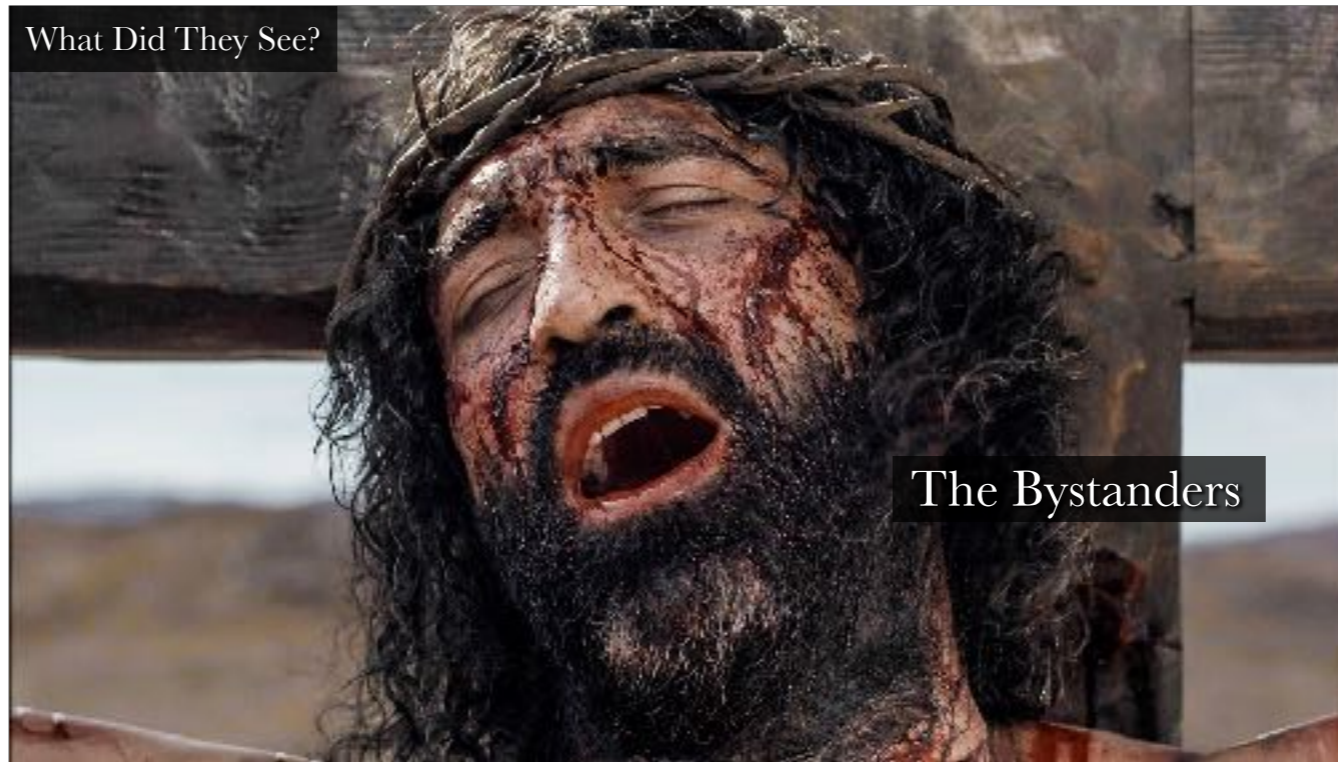
What Did They See?

The Women

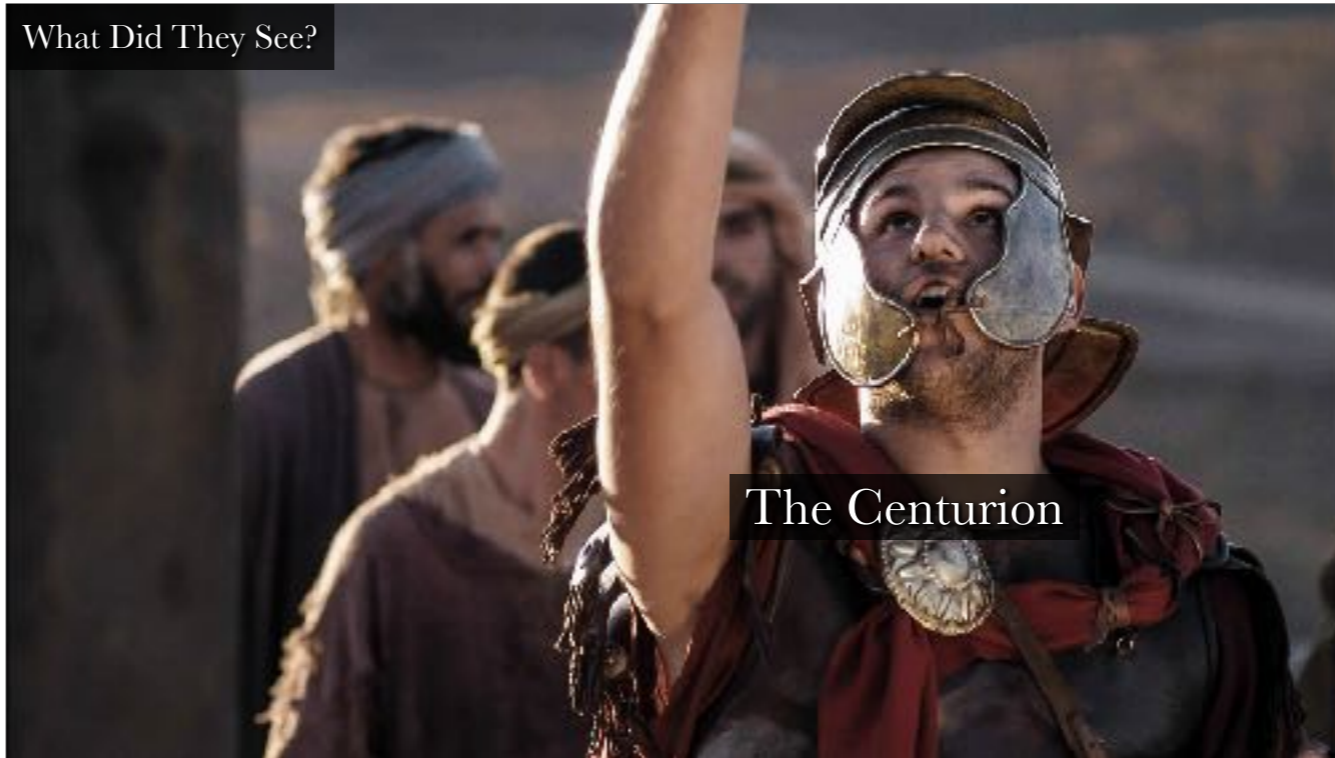
- Women: John 19:25-27 (ESV)
 - 25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.
- They saw those who love Jesus nearby
- They see Jesus caring for his mother.



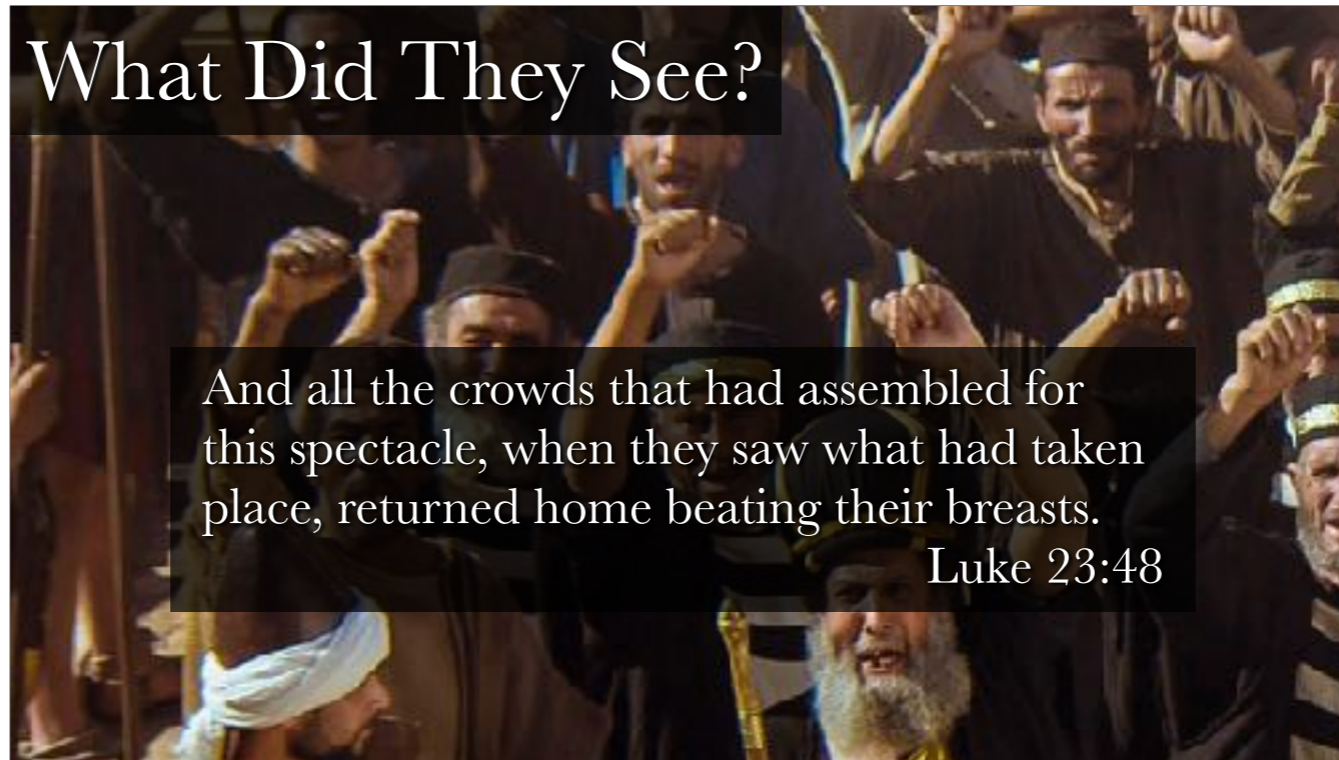
- Bystanders — after three hours of darkness in the middle of the day
- Matthew 27:46-50 (ESV)
 - 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
 - 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “**This man is calling Elijah.**”
 - 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.



- 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."
- 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.
- Prophecy said that Elijah was to precede the coming of the Messiah
 - Joke: now that Jesus is dying, he's pleading for Elijah to appear and proclaim him as the Messiah
 - It's the cry of a desperate fraud, and they mocked him.



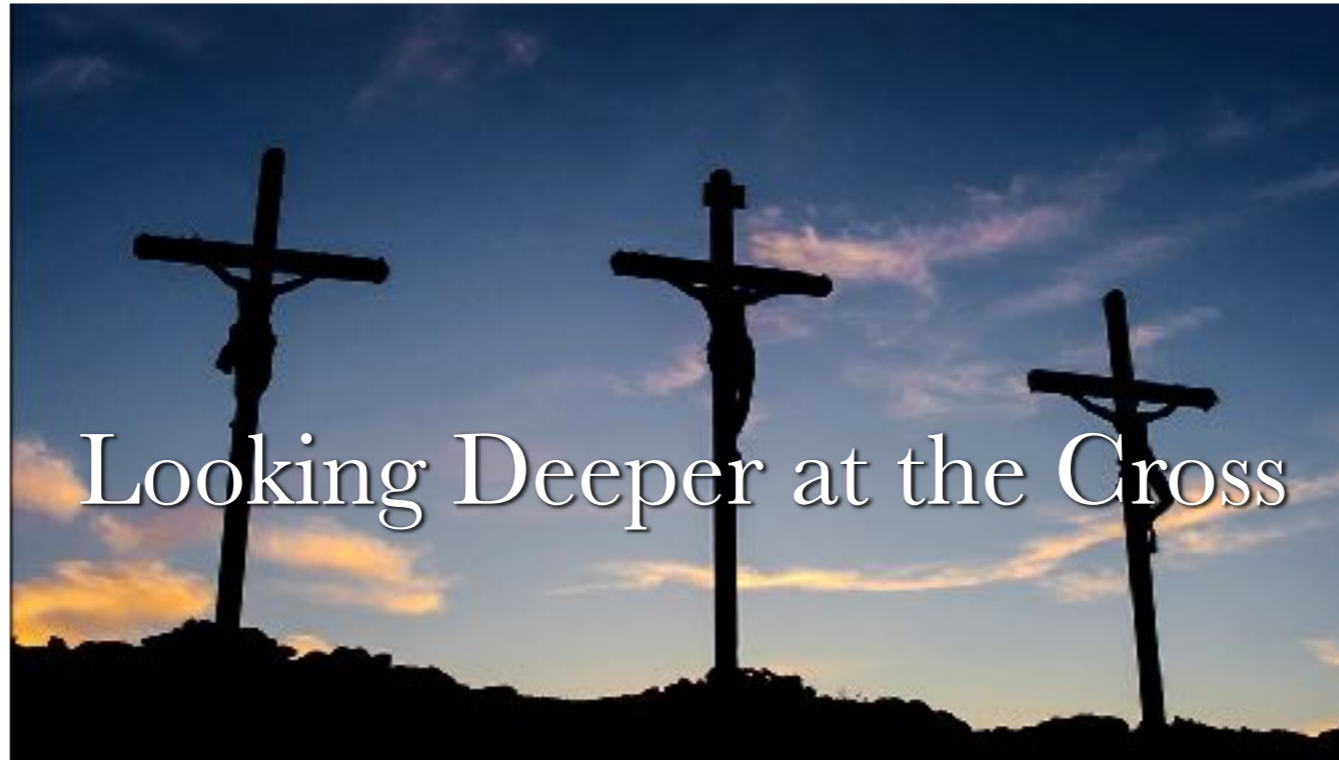
- Centurion
- Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"
- Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"



What Did They See?

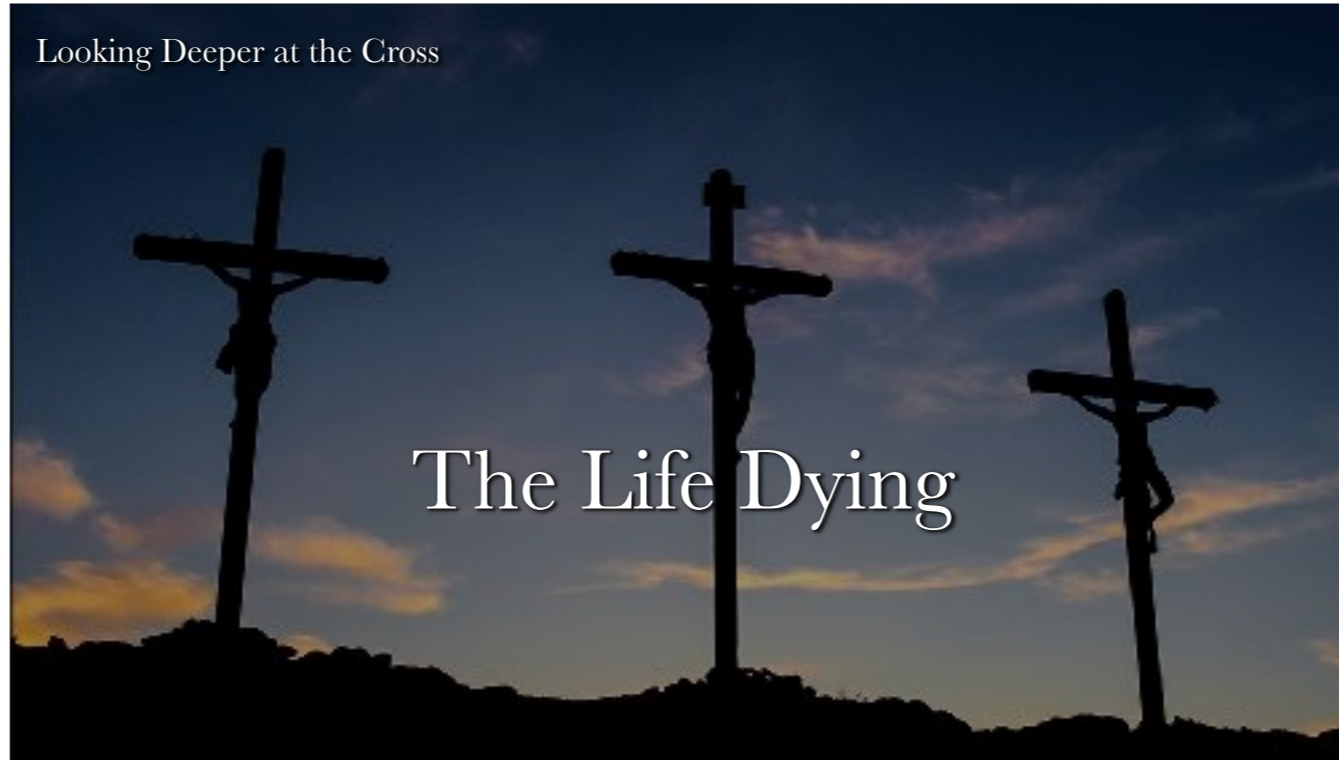
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Luke 23:48

- Beating Breasts
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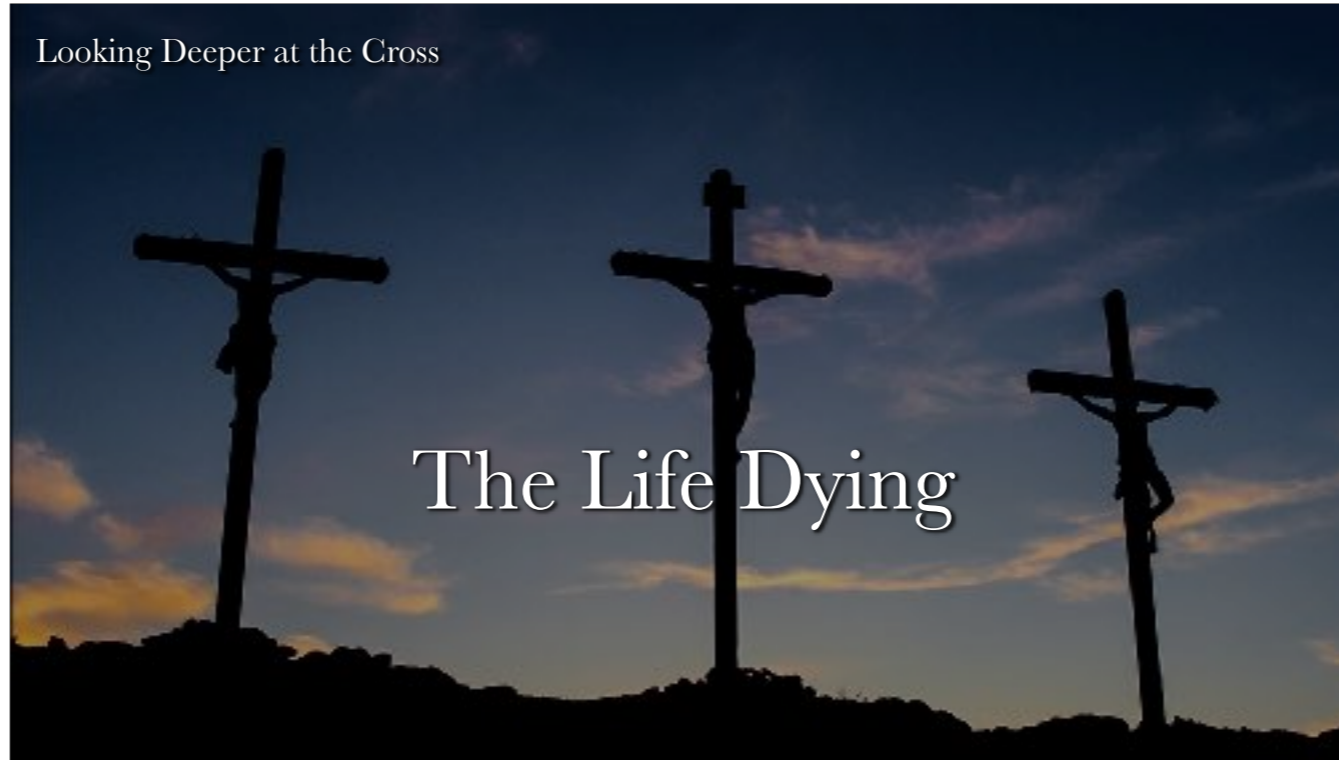
- The problem with a spectacle is that we are often so caught up in what is happening at that moment, that we fail to see the importance and meaning of these events.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- I see the Life dying.
 - John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - 1 Timothy 6:16 who alone has immortality

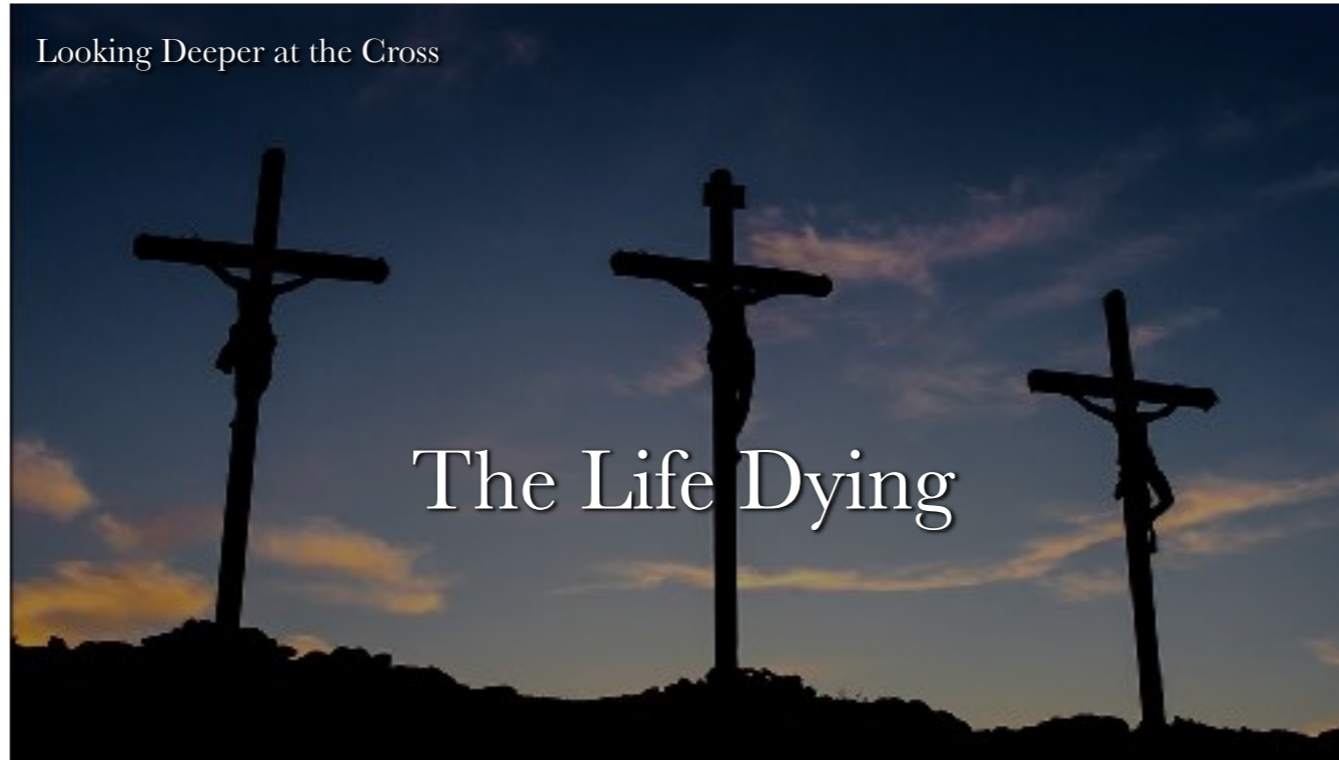
Looking Deeper at the Cross



- Killing the Author of Life

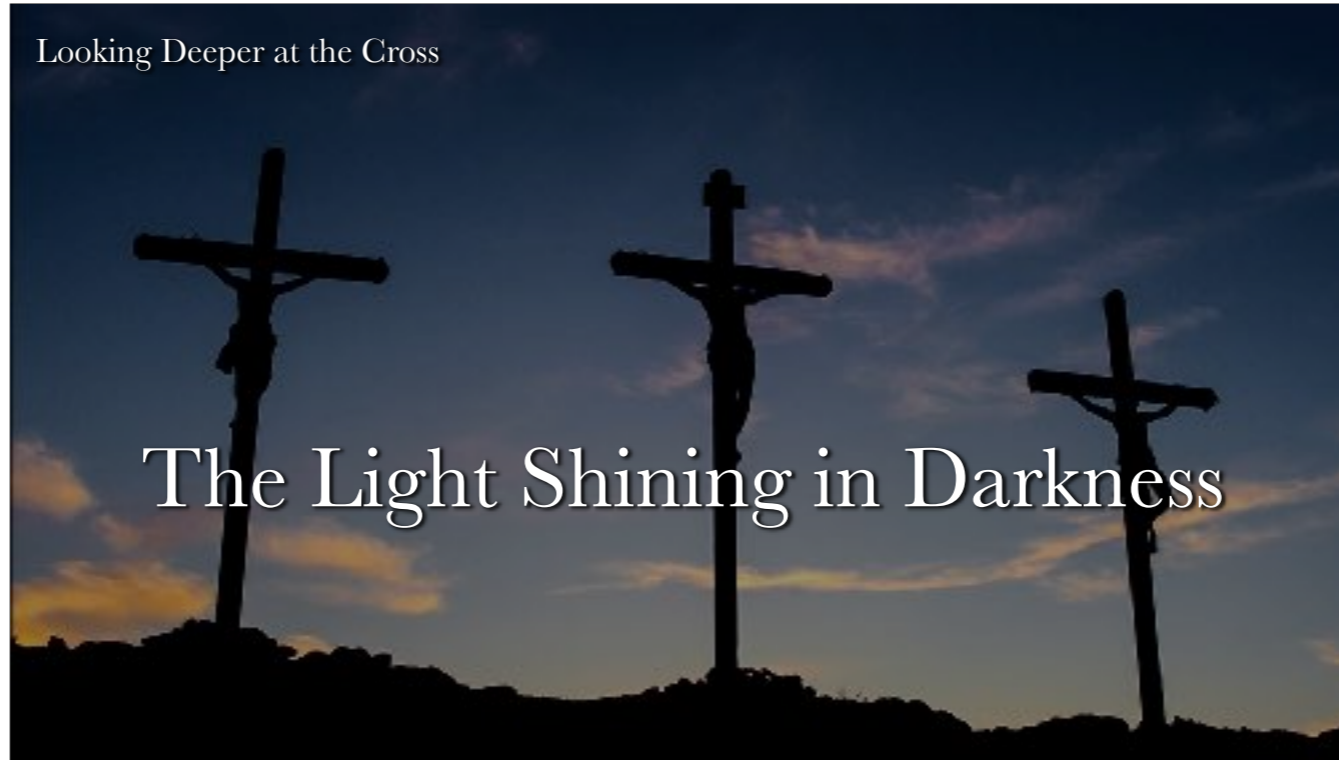
- Acts 3:13-15 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- The immortal, the one who is life and in whom is life, the everlasting, the eternal, from eternity.
 - He is immortal, he is everlasting. But the immortal dies.
 - The ONE who IS LIFE, dies.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



The Light Shining in Darkness

- The Light
 - John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
 - John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

Looking Deeper at the Cross

The image shows three crosses silhouetted against a dark, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The crosses are arranged in a slightly descending line from left to right. The central cross is the tallest and most prominent. The text "The Light Shining in Darkness" is overlaid in a white, serif font across the middle of the image.

The Light Shining in Darkness

- Matthew 17:2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.
- 2 Peter 1:16-18 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Looking Deeper at the Cross

A photograph of three crosses on a hill at sunset. The sky is dark blue with some light clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a silhouette effect on the crosses and the hill. The text 'The Light Shining in Darkness' is overlaid in white serif font.

The Light Shining in Darkness

- The Light, who's glory we cannot even behold, surrounded by darkness as the sun won't shine.
 - Calling for the forgiveness of those who crucified him
 - He didn't revile those who reviled him
 - Looking forward to the kingdom and paradise
 - Caring for his mother
 - Crying out to his father
 - It is finished — the plan of salvation

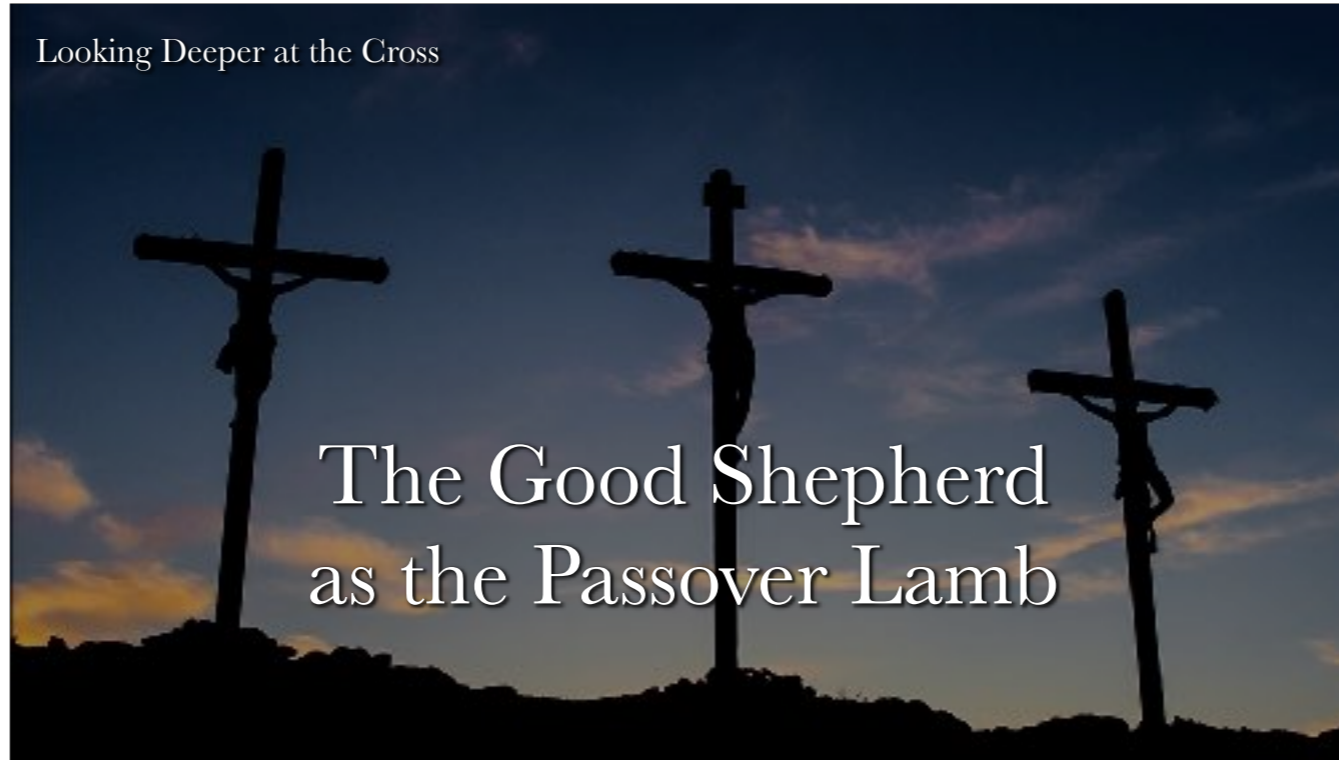
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- Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- John 10:10-11 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- Isaiah 53:7 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- The Good shepherd, sacrificed as a lamb without blemish.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:7 For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19 — knowing that you were **ransomed** from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
- Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - 6) weak; 6) ungodly; 8) still sinners; 10) enemies
- Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Looking Deeper at the Cross



- I see love, rejected by hatred, envy, etc.; mocked, scorned, ridiculed
- What I see above everything else is the love that made him do it all.
 - I see the holy Son of God loving you so much that he wants to reunite you with His father.



- While some look at the cross and see only the most obvious scenes,
- We need to take time to look more deeply at the cross, and see that so much more was happening that day.
 - And when we take time to really look ... we see the glory, and boast.
- What do you see?

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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https://www.123rf.com/photo_21010679_panoramic-shot-of-crowd-shouting-with-hands-on-face.html



THE EASTER STORY

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Matthew 27: 27-37, Mark 15:16-25, Luke 23:26-34, John 19:16-27

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THE EASTER STORY

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Matthew 27:38-66, Mark 15:25-47, Luke 23:35-56, John 19:28-42.

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The Spectacle of the Cross

Luke 23:48

Synopsis: The day that Jesus died, the people assembled to see a spectacle. What did they see? Pilate and soldiers, those who passed by and the Jewish leaders, the criminals and the women, the bystanders and the centurion. But these are all superficial (still meaningful!) And as we look into the depths of the cross we can see the life dying, the light shining in darkness, the good shepherd as the passover lamb, and love loving. (Adapted from The Cross by Martyn Lloyd-Jones)

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”