



# Calvary of Albuquerque

Cross-Culture - John 12:27-36

From the Series, Believe:879

By Pastor Skip Heitzig

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

The term *cross-culture* emerges from the social sciences and typically refers to interaction of one culture or language with another. But that's not how I'm using it today. I'm thinking of it in the biblical sense, the salvation sense. Jesus' whole life was immersed in the culture of the cross and He referred to His impending death on the cross as "His hour." Let's consider today the culture of the cross of Christ: what it meant to Jesus personally and the world ultimately.

## OUTLINE

- I. The *Cross-Culture* and Christ (vv. 27-30)
  - A. The Pain of It
  - B. The Glory of It
- II. The *Cross-Culture* and the World (vv. 31-33)
  - A. The World is Judged by It
  - B. The World's Ruler is Cast Out by It
  - C. The World's People Can be Saved by It
- III. The *Cross-Culture* and the Crowd (vv. 34-36)
  - A. Confused by Hearsay
  - B. Confirmed by Jesus



## DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
  - A. The cross misunderstood
    1. For some: a tragic event; a murder
    2. For some: repulsive; the celebration of a Man who shed His blood in a public arena
    3. For most: a religious symbol that may or may not have power today
    4. A symbol to work some sort of "magic" for those who wear it or hang it in their house
  - B. Conquest mentality
    1. 2000 years ago in and around Jerusalem, wanted Messiah to come to rule and reign; to conquer enemies
    2. When Jesus said "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" thought:
      - a. Glory of conquest
      - b. A political deliverer
      - c. Prosperity now
  - C. Jesus was speaking of the glory of the cross; His own death. The cross permeates the New Testament
    1. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)
    2. "But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)
    3. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)
  - D. Rituals of the church communicate the death of Christ
    1. Baptism
      - a. Underwater: the death and burial of Jesus (See Romans 6:3)
      - b. Out of water: the resurrection
    2. Communion: "Proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)
  - E. Some churches deviate from the message of the cross
    1. Pull out songs about the blood and cross of Christ
    2. Hip and relevant

3. Celebrate personal satisfaction, your best life now

F. "I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the centre of the market place, as well as on the steeple of the church. I'm recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a Cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on a town garbage heap at a crossroads of politics so cosmopolitan they had to write His title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek. And the kind of place where cynics talk smut and thieves curse and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died and that is what He died about. And that is where Christ's people ought to be and what church people ought to be about."—George McLeod

G. The setting

1. Jesus has entered Jerusalem
2. Days before His death
3. The disciples had gotten him a donkey
4. Crowds gathered shouting "Hosanna!" (Save now!)
5. Jesus comes into the temple
6. High hopes "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified"
7. Let down: He speaks of His death

II. The *Cross-Culture* and Christ (vv. 27-30)

A. The Pain of It

1. Matthew, Mark, and Luke give details about His suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. John reveals Jesus' anguish going on days before the Garden, arrest, trial, and crucifixion
3. Troubled: ταρασσω - tarasso: to agitate, stir up, trouble (See John 5:4)
4. Agitated because of the Cross; He knows and has always known
5. On the cross He will bear the sin and guilt of every person past, present, and future.
6. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
7. "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse (for us for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')" (Galatians 3:13)
8. In the Garden, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," (Mark 14:34 NIV)
9. "And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44) (hematidrosis)
10. The real anguish would be separation from the Father on the cross
  - a. In the Garden Jesus calls the Father "Abba!" (See Mark 14:36)
  - b. On the Cross, Jesus calls Him, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

B. The Glory of It

1. He could have gotten out of it. "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53)
2. This was His life's work: "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8)
3. The center of God's plan.
  - a. If Jesus did not die, there would be no substitute for sin
  - b. If there were no substitute for sin, there would be no salvation from our sin
  - c. If there were no salvation from our sin, there would be no hope
  - d. If there were no hope, there would be no future
4. His deepest motivation was to glorify the Father
5. "Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)
6. God's voice from heaven
  - a. One of three times
    - i. At Jesus' Baptism "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)
    - ii. At the Transfiguration: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5)
    - iii. Now: "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." (John 12:28)
  - b. Authenticates Jesus as God's Son

III. The *Cross-Culture* and the World (vv. 31-33)

A. The World is Judged by It

1. The first act of the cross
2. World: κόσμος - Kosmos - the world system; thought and ideology controlled by the devil, poised against God
3. When the world put Jesus on the cross, it was judging itself. "But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would never have crucified our glorious Lord." (1 Corinthians 2:8 NLT)
4. The issue is always the same: What are you going to do about Jesus?
  - a. Pontius Pilate (See Matthew 27:17)
    - i. Crucifies him
    - ii. The scene will be reversed: Jesus the judge, Pilate on trial
  - b. What you do with Jesus will determine your destiny.

B. The World's Ruler is Cast Out by It

1. Satan is the prince of this world
2. The beginning of the end for the devil
3. Five "casting outs" of the devil
  - a. Cast out of heaven as a permanent resident (See Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28)
  - b. At the cross, the power to destroy lives was taken from him. (The roaring lion de-fanged: [See 1 Peter 5:8])-Christians immune
  - c. During tribulation cast from heaven to earth permanently (See Revelation 12:10)
  - d. At the end of the tribulation, cast into the bottomless pit during the Millennial Reign of Christ
  - e. Cast after that into the lake of fire

C. The World's People Can be Saved by It

1. Lifted Up
  - a. Not lifted up in worship  
Lift Jesus higher, lift Jesus higher  
Lift Him up for the world to see.  
He said if I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw all men unto me.
  - b. Lifted up in crucifixion
    - i. By the act of being a substitute I will draw all men to Me
    - ii. "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up." John 3:14) (See Numbers 21)
    - iii. Believe they are sinners
    - iv. Believe that by faith it will work
2. The cross draws people to Jesus (forgiven and a fresh start)
3. Easier for people to believe that if they look to themselves they will be saved (earning a place in heaven)
4. Pride of men causes them to look away from the solution that God offers

#### IV. The *Cross*-Culture and the Crowd

##### A. Confused by Hearsay

1. Remembering the Scriptures that speak to the glorious reign of Messiah
  - a. Son of Man(Daniel 7)
  - b. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever." (Isaiah 9:6-7)
  - c. Political Ruler
2. Neglected to think of the suffering Messiah
  - a. "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)
  - b. Crucifixion described in Psalm 22
  - c. Pierced: (See Zechariah 13,14)
3. Confused by the two comings of Christ
  - a. Most people are confused about Jesus
  - b. Most people are confused about the cross

##### B. Confirmed by Jesus

1. God doesn't want anyone confused about it
2. In the midst of our culture stands the cross

Greek Terms: ταρασσω - tarasso: to agitate, stir up, trouble; κόσμος - Kosmos - the world system; thought and ideology controlled by the devil, poised against God

Figures Referenced: George McLeod

Publications Referenced: "Lift Jesus Higher"

Cross References: Numbers 21; Psalm 22; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 14; Isaiah 53:5; Ezekiel 28; Daniel 7; Zechariah 13,14; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; Matthew 27:17; Matthew 27:46; Mark 14:34; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:44; John 3:14; John 5:4; John 12:28; Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 2:2; 1 Corinthians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 3:13; Galatians 6:14; Hebrews 12:2; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10; Revelation 13:8