

My God, My God

Mark 15:21-41

by Don Falkos

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Simon, a native of Cyrene in Africa, just happened to be passing by as Jesus was being lead out for execution. The soldiers forced Simon to carry the heavy beam of the cross on which Jesus was to be crucified. They took Jesus to Golgotha, The Place of the Skull. They offered him a mixture of wine and myrrh, used to reduce pain, but Jesus didn't drink it. At about nine in the morning, they crucified Jesus along with two other men, both criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. And the soldiers divided up his clothes among themselves by casting lots.

The written charge against Jesus read, THE KING OF THE JEWS. The people passing by shouted abuse at Jesus, while the religious leaders mocked him, "He saved others, let's see him save himself, if he really is the Messiah, the king of Israel." The men crucified with Jesus also hurled insults at him.

At midday darkness fell until about three in the afternoon. Then Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the people standing there misunderstood what he was saying. They thought he was calling on the prophet Elijah and said, "Let's see if Elijah comes to help him down."

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain that separated the most holy place in the Temple, was torn in two. And when the centurion, the Roman official in charge of the crucifixion, saw how Jesus died, he said, "Certainly this was the Son of God."

All the while, the women who had supported Jesus' ministry and who had followed him from Galilee stood at a respectful distance and watched.