

THE BIG IDEA: At the cross, everyone becomes every one.The Take-Off

Today, we come to the cross.

A lot of people have a lot of different ideas about the cross:

For some, it's a fashion accessory. For some, it's a tattoo. For others, artwork.

Throughout the ages, the crucifixion has been a staple of artists.

Some have seemed glamorous [IMAGE / Cross 01]

Others have seemed violent [IMAGE / Cross 02]

Some have been a bit more artsy [IMAGE / Cross 03]

There have been others that tried to capture the whole scene [IMAGE / Cross 04]

But by far, the most unique painting I've ever seen is a piece of artwork from French artist James Tissot called "What Jesus Saw From The Cross" [IMAGE / The Crucifixion - James Tissot]

What I love about this painting is that it offers a heavenly perspective - it attempts to show what Jesus was experiencing as he hung on the cross

Where we may see a mob, Jesus saw individuals. People in the crowd would have stood out to him - we know that because he spoke to some of them.

Sometimes we simply say that Jesus died for everyone - and that's true - but it's too easy to see a mass of humanity and forget that the person next to you is part of that massive group.

Jesus never lost sight of a person when he was looking at people.

As I've read through [Luke 23:26-43](#) in preparation, I've been amazed at how specific types of people are highlighted.

I believe that is powerful for those of us here this morning who may be tempted to hide in a crowd.

Jesus loves us too much to leave us anonymous, and this passage of him on the cross shows that.

At the cross, everyone becomes every one.

Point of grammar: "everyone" refers to the collective group of people, but "every one" to the individuals in that group I find 5 types of people - 5 every ones - in our verses this morning.

Let's read it and then we'll see the people Jesus saw then and now.

1. The unwilling

- a. I don't know how many of you like surprises, but one man in the crowd got a big one!
- b. It was well within the law for Roman soldiers to force subjects into service, and so Simon became an unwilling participant in the crucifixion of Jesus
- c. There are always unwilling people at the cross
- d. Some of you are here unwillingly
- e. You'd rather me talk about anything other than the cross, and yet, just like Simon, here you are as an unwilling participant at the cross
- f. We don't know what happened to Simon, surely he was never the same; the unwilling here won't be, either

2. The grieving

- a. As Jesus scanned the large crowd that followed him, he found women mourning
- b. Among them were probably his mother and other close friends
- c. The cross that would pay for our sins cost them dearly that day
- d. Sometimes we speak so lightly of the cross and yet we forget that there is pain in the promises:
 - [Mark 8:34](#) / to follow, take up your cross
 - [Philippians 3:10-11](#) / the power of the resurrection follows the pain of death
- e. There is pain at the cross, and many grieve the loss that comes in following Jesus
- f. Yes, there is reward and peace and fullness of life, but that does not discount the cost
- g. Some in this world seem to pay it more severely - don't treat that lightly

3. The guilty

- a. Verse 32 mentions 2 criminals who were crucified beside Jesus
- b. These men represent another group of "ones" at the cross - the guilty

- c. I know that everyone at the cross was guilty, but these men would represent all of us who have such a sordid past that we wouldn't even try to deny our guilt
- d. We deserve what comes to us - we've robbed joy and hope from others

4. The mockers

- a. Verse 35 says the religious "sneered" at Jesus (NIV) and that the soldiers mocked him.
- b. There will always be those who see the cross - and the savior on it - as something to be laughed at
- c. **1 Cor. 1:18** / the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing - it makes no sense
- d. What is that message? Verse 34 - forgiveness
- e. And the message of forgiveness is powerful unto salvation!

5. The forgiven

- a. The last "one" reveals that - it's the thief who, after seeing Jesus forgive his killers, suddenly goes from a guilty mocker to a repentant sinner
- b. And Jesus forgave him
- c. There will always be room at the cross for the guilty to become to forgiven

The Landing

This is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:2 that he resolved to preach Christ and Christ crucified

He knew the promise and the power of transformation that the cross holds for every one!

Today, as we've spoken about the cross, the "everyone" of this crowd has become "every one"

There isn't one person here who isn't seen by the Savior, and I want to call you to respond to the message of the cross!

John 12:32 promises that when Jesus is lifted up - as he was on the cross - he would draw all to him.

This morning, he's drawing you.

Let's respond by bowing at the foot of the cross.

Let's pray.