

Snapshots at the Cross

(Matthew 27:32-56)

- Introduction:
1. As one reads Matthew's account of the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus, he is able to see a number of "snapshots" of people who were present.
 2. In the crowd that day were faces. In fact, if you look hard enough, you'll find your face in one of the crowds.
 3. I want us to take a closer look at the photo album of the cross and see if we can't find our face in the crowd.

I. The First Snapshot - Forced To The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:32).
- B. (Mark 15:21).
- C. There is no indication from this account that this man had any real interest in Jesus. He was simply forced to the cross of Jesus.
- D. Could it be that any of us feel like Simon (i.e. forced to the cross)?
 1. A husband who comes only for his wife?
 2. Children who come only because they have to?
 3. A wife who comes only for her children?
 4. A preacher who comes to get paid?

II. The Second Snapshot - Foolish At The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:34-44).
- B. This snapshot includes the soldiers, the crowd, and the religious leaders.
 1. The Soldiers - within the shadow of the cross, totally oblivious to the importance of the event, playing games.
 2. The Crowd - so close to the cross, but so far from Christ.
 3. The Religious Leaders - knew better, but envy got the best of them.

III. The Third Snapshot - Forgiven At The Cross

- A. (Matthew 27:44-54).
- B. (Luke 23:39-43).
- C. A criminal, probably the least likely candidate, is the one forgiven.
- D. Remorse, humility, and a plea for help are the expressions seen in this picture.

- Conclusion:
1. Have you seen your snapshot in this story?
 2. Where's your picture?
 - a. Is it among those who were forced to the cross?
 - b. Is it among those who were foolish at the cross?
 - c. Is it among those who were forgiven at the cross?