

## Good Friday

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

March 29, 2024 / Dan Solofra

#### What were the witnesses to the crucifixion thinking?

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. **Luke 23:32-34, NIV**

Jesus was thinking “forgiveness” for those who don’t realize the seriousness of sin.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews. <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” **Luke 23:35-39, NIV**

Religious leaders, criminals and soldiers were united in thinking that Jesus was a fool.

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” **Luke 22:40-43, NIV**

The criminal was thinking, “I deserve this!”

Jesus was thinking, “I will take what you deserve.”

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. **Luke 32:44-46, NIV**

Jesus was thinking, “I trust the Father with my life and with my death.”

<sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” <sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. **Luke 32:47-49, NIV**

The centurion was thinking that this was the death of a righteous man.