

**NOW THERE STOOD BY
JOHN 19:25-30**

Read John 19:25-30. Some were no doubt there because they wished to see the deed to its conclusion, falsely believing that they could destroy all that Jesus stood for. Some were there because they were ordered to be there. Some perhaps were simply curious. Some were there because they followed Jesus every step of the way of his ministry that led to Golgotha. Had we been present on that occasion, how near to the cross would we have stood? How near to the cross do we stand today? We often sing the words, “*Jesus keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain...*” yet our lives often depict us standing afar off! Why is that? Have we forgotten what the cross of Christ means? (Cf. John 3:16,17; Phil. 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:9).

Let’s consider some of the individuals who were present when Christ was crucified and what the cross meant to them.

I. A Grievous Mob

- A. There at the foot of the cross stood a grievous mob and a gambling military.
 - 1. False accusations (Matt. 26:59; Luke 23:1,2)
 - 2. Ferocious attack (Matt. 26:67; Mark 15:16-20)
 - 3. Frivolous answer (Matt. 27:17, 20,21)
 - 4. Final Acclamation (John 19:6)[I find no fault]
 - 5. Flamboyant assault (Luke 23:35-37) [derision and mockery]
 - 6. Fission (dividing) of Apparel (John 19:23,24)(Psa. 22:18)
- B. Are we any different than that *grievous mob* when we “*trodden under foot the Son of God*” and “*crucify Him afresh*” when we harden our hearts to sin (Heb. 6:6; 10:29)?
 - 1. They ridiculed the cross.
 - a. They did not realize He was not there to save himself, but others.
 - b. So they made fun of, laughed at, ridiculed Jesus.
- C. Are we any different than those *gambling militants* who sought to divide the garments of Christ when we gamble with our souls by living divided lives (Matt. 6:24; Mk. 8:36)
 - 1. You think about how their trivialized the cross.
 - a. Playing games at the foot of the cross
 - b. While Jesus was dying, they were playing!
 - 2. They were close to the cross yet so far away.
 - 3. We dare not play games at the foot of the cross—major in minors, waste time on the trivial.
- D. *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus a grievous mob*— Are we standing with them today?

II. A Grieving Mother.

- A. Luke 2:34, 35...
 - 1. Imagine the hurt she felt? The loneliness? The pain? No doubt the insults being hurled at Jesus were also being hurled at her as she stood there and wept.
 - 2. Her first born son was being numbered with the transgressors as he hung there on that tree, dying the most shameful of death, despite his innocency (Isa. 53).
 - 3. It may be possible that she also stood there at the foot of the cross grieving because she knew why He was there; i.e. because of man’s sin and hopeless condition?
 - 4. Limitless love of a mother.
 - 5. You think about Jesus in this setting.
 - a. He was dying for the masses of people.
 - b. Yet he had practical concern for lonely, frightened woman. (mother).
- B. Today, as we stand at the foot of the cross, we should be grieved, knowing that it was our sins that crucified Him (cf. Acts 2:22-23; I Pet. 2:21-24).
- C. *Now, there stood by the cross of Jesus a grieving mother*— Do we grieve today?

III. A Grateful Maid

- A. Along with Mary the mother of Jesus and her sister, as well as Mary the wife of Cleophas, stood one named *Mary Magdalene*. Who was this woman? Why was she there?
 - 1. It would seem that this was the same *Mary Magdalene* that the Lord healed in casting out seven demons (Lk. 8:2).
 - 2. His healing of her infirmity prompted a gratuitous spirit that can be seen throughout the Gospel narrative (Matt. 27:55-56; Lk. 23:55-24:1).
 - 3. When the majority of the Lord's disciples had abandoned Him at His most difficult hour, *Mary Magdalene* had remained, and she had done so because she had not forgotten what He had done for her!
 - B. Today, as we stand at the foot of the cross, are we grateful!
 - 1. Are we, as God's people, truly thankful for the spiritual healing we have received: that cleansing / remission of sins through His precious blood (I John 1:7)?
 - 2. Luke Mary Magdalene, are we grateful that we have been freed from our infirmity of sin through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:6-7).
 - 3. A grateful spirit should be seen in our actions, deeds, and words?
 - C. *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus a grateful maid*– Does our lives reflect a grateful spirit?
- IV. A Gentle Man.
- A. Besides the grievous mob, grieving mother, and grateful maid, there stood by the cross of Jesus *a gentle man*; namely; John, the beloved disciple of Jesus.
 - 1. But where were all the others? Did they not know that Mary would need a shoulder to cry on? To lean on? To depend on?
 - 2. John was responding out of a sense of loyalty. He was a faithful follower.
 - 3. I'm not sure why others weren't there on that occasion–perhaps it was fear; however, John, the gentle and loving disciple was there to help comfort and support the grieving.
 - 4. Amidst His darkest hour Jesus makes provision for His mother, and this *gentle man*, without reservation, accepts the responsibility that His Lord placed upon him. From that point onward, John would take care of Mary! John was trustworthy.
 - B. Many today who are standing at the foot of the cross and are hurting, crying out for help, needing a comforting hand and a shoulder to lean on. Will we assume our responsibility?
 - 1. I Pet 4:8-10
 - 2. Romans 15:1-2
 - C. *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus a gentle man*– Can the Lord depend on you?

Con: The last three that we mentioned (his mother, Mary Magdalene, John), showed great fortitude. Imagine the public scorn, ridicule, own personal danger they faced. The great affections for Christ that they were showing. The great sympathy. The great self-control. **How near to the cross do we stand today?** Standing by . . . no words to speak, no hands to help. Place we stand matters much. Those standing in sin stand opposed to God and are no different that the *grievous mob!* But there is hope–*Forgive them Father...*” Forgiveness comes by way of obedience! You need to come today with both a *grieving and grateful heart* (grieving because of sin and grateful for salvation) and with *gentleness* assume the responsibility the Lord has placed upon you.