

Luke 23:32-33

Two others, criminals, were also led with Him to be put to death.

When they came to the place called THE SKULL, they crucified Him there, and the criminals, one on the right, and the other on the left.

In ancient times, we know that the Roman Empire ruled brutally, executing many by crucifixion—an act that involved hanging victims on wooden crosses, a method designed to humiliate and prolong suffering. This gruesome form of execution spread across much of the ancient world, including Israel. However, when the time came for the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ, He was taken to a place called THE SKULL (Golgotha, in Hebrew). This specific place is highly significant. But why was He taken there? Why not somewhere else, like Bethany or Emmaus?

Theological Significance of Golgotha:

The name Golgotha (which means “the skull”) is not a random place-name. Theologically, this location holds deep spiritual meaning. Some scholars believe it was called “the skull” because the place resembled the shape of a skull or was a place where executions were commonly carried out. Others suggest it points to the place of Adam’s burial, where his skull was laid to rest after death, symbolizing the defeat of sin that Christ would achieve through His death. This connection is reinforced by 1 Corinthians 15:22:

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Christ’s death at THE SKULL marks the place where the first man, Adam, failed, but where the Second Adam, Jesus, would triumph over sin and death, offering redemption to all who believe. His death was not just a physical death—it was the beginning of the restoration of what was lost in the Garden of Eden.

The Crucifixion in the Mind:

The act of crucifying Jesus at Golgotha also signifies a deeper,

spiritual truth. Before His physical crucifixion, Christ was already rejected in the hearts and minds of humanity. The people had already “crucified” Him in their thoughts long before the actual event. His rejection was not just physical but spiritual, as evidenced in Matthew 21:42-44, when Jesus refers to Himself as the rejected stone:

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.

This rejection of Christ, both then and now, is rooted in the rejection of God’s Word and truth.

Spiritual Rejection of the Light:

John 3:19-20 highlights the rejection of Christ as the Light that came into the world:

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

Jesus came to a world darkened by sin, but the world chose to remain in darkness, rejecting the very Light that could save them. His rejection by the religious leaders, His betrayal by Judas, and the denial by Peter were all part of the greater rejection of God's redemption plan for humanity. This is what it means to "crucify Christ" in our hearts—when we reject the truth and light of His Word, we essentially nail Him to the cross again in our minds. Hebrews 6:6 says:

...and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace.

Isaiah's Prophetic Insight:

Isaiah 53:3-4 gives a poignant description of the suffering and rejection Christ would face:

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.

Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken and afflicted.”

Isaiah’s prophecy reveals not just the physical suffering Jesus would endure, but the emotional and spiritual rejection He would face. He took on the full weight of humanity’s sins and sorrows, becoming the ultimate sacrifice for our redemption.

Crucifying Christ in Our Minds:

It’s easy to say, “If I had been there when Jesus was crucified, I would never have taken part in it.” But the truth is, Christ is still being crucified today in the hearts and minds of many. We crucify Him not just by rejecting His death, but by rejecting His Word and the truth He came to bring.

You may not physically crucify Christ, but whenever you reject the Word of God or mock His name, you're essentially doing what the people of that time did. Hebrews 10:29 warns:

How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

This rejection occurs in subtle ways: when we ignore His truth, when we choose sin over obedience, when we make light of His sacrifice, or when we ignore the calling of the Holy Spirit. This is the continued crucifixion of Christ in our minds.

### The Call to Open Our Hearts:

Now is the time to open your heart to Jesus, to let Him renew your mind and life. Romans 12:2 urges us to be transformed:

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

By obeying God's Word and submitting to the Holy Spirit, we allow Christ to bring transformation in our lives, to heal and restore what has been broken. When we allow Him to change the way we think, He can bring true healing and salvation. This is the way to live a life that is pleasing to Him, so that we do not end up like those who rejected Him during His earthly ministry.

### The Hope of Glory:

The crucifixion was not the end; it was the means by which Christ would bring ultimate victory. Colossians 2:14-15 declares:

Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Christ's victory on the cross is the victory that every believer can claim. Through His death, He defeated the powers of sin and death, and now, through His resurrection, He offers us eternal life. The cross was not just an instrument of suffering; it became the instrument of our redemption.

Be Blessed.

This version includes deeper theological reflections, connecting Christ's crucifixion with key biblical truths. It also integrates several Bible references to provide a fuller understanding of the significance of Christ's death and how we continue to encounter it in our lives today. Let me know if you'd like any further additions or refinements!

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