



From the Cross to the Crown!!!

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

There is a crucifixion taking place and the man who some say is guilty, his name is Jesus. The high priest says that Jesus said He is the Messiah, the Son of God. And because Jesus answered him with yes, His punishment calls for death!

Golgotha was a prominent place outside of Jerusalem where criminals were crucified and their bodies were left to hang as a warning to others. There, Jesus was crucified with a notice over his head proclaiming the charge against him which reads, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." This was a statement that was no doubt intended to be mockery, but was actually the truth.

A crucifixion was for people who had committed heinous crimes. It is an ancient method of execution, where the victim was tied or nailed to a large wooden cross and left to hang there until dead. It is an extremely dishonorable way of dying.

In the book of Matthew, the death of Jesus is the fulfillment of the will and purpose of God in the Old Testament. The words Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" are quoted in Psalms 22. This psalm is written out of an experience of great pain and deep distress. This is a psalm that people turn to in times of great trial.

BUT, thanks be to God that the story doesn't end there! Since Easter and resurrection are often used interchangeably, I will use an acrostic of the word EASTER to illustrate what Jesus has done for us through the cross!

E - Empty Tomb that provides hope in a hopeless world.

A - Angel who invited them to "come and see."

S - Surprised at an empty grave.

T - Tell - The command the witnesses were given.

E - Excitement - what the women felt that morning.

R - Resurrected - Our Lord and Savior Jesus lives today.



And because He lives, we can face tomorrow! Good Friday was painful and tragic, but Jesus, and therefore we, had to go through Good Friday to get to Resurrection Sunday! Have a Blessed Resurrection Sunday and remember, our salvation comes through the cross of Christ!