

WHERE ARE YOU AT CALVARY?

This is a cross section of those involved with Calvary. See if you can find where you fit in?

CHIEF PRIESTS: “As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, **“Crucify! Crucify!”** (John 19:6) These were religious professionals with an agenda. They were men without scruples who would stoop to any level in order to get their way.

JUDAS: “Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: **“The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.”** Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, **“Greetings, Rabbi!”** and kissed him.” (Matt 26:48-49) Judas has gone down in history as the man who sold his soul for only 30 pieces of silver.

PILATE: “From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, **“If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”** (John 19:12) Pilate is a classic example of someone who chose job security over principle.

BARABBAS: “A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising.” (Mark 15:7) Jesus died on the cross where Barabbas should have been crucified.

THE MOB: “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. **“Crucify him!”** they shouted.” (Mark 15:12-13) Thoughtless people who were merely saying what everybody else was saying.

THE SOLDIERS: “The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, **“Hail, king of the Jews!”** And they struck him in the face.” (John 19:2-3) These were professional men doing a job, but even they could not resist the temptation to talk and think like everyone else.

SIMON OF CYRENE: “As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross.” (Matt 27:32) Simon was someone who had no intention of getting involved, but did so because of circumstances beyond his control.

THOSE WHO PASSED BY: “Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, **“So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!”** (Mark 15:29-30), These were religious people who had come to Jerusalem to worship. They were too busy with the Passover to get heavily involved. They merely “passed by”, “hurled insults”, and were “shaking their heads”.

THE DISCIPLES: “Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.” (Matt 26:56) In this moment of temptation they did something they were later ashamed of.

THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM: “Jesus turned and said to them, **“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’** (Luke 23:28-29) These were people who were going to see their country ravaged by war.

HIS MOTHER: “Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother,” (John 19:25) Her love for Jesus left her no alternative but to stand near the cross.

THE WOMEN FROM GALILEE: “Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs.” (Matt 27:55) These were faithful followers who ministered to Jesus from their substance and remained faithful unto the end.

THE UNBELIEVING THIEF: “One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: **“Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”** (Luke 23:39) How sad! Even as he was dying this poor soul let salvation slip through his fingers.

THE THIEF WHO BELIEVED: “Then he said, **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”** Jesus answered him, **“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”** (Luke 23:42-43)