1 **– At The Cross – Part 2**

Matthew 27:11-26

2 – **Our response to Jesus**

* Man’s response to all that Jesus did and taught was wide and varied.
* The response to His miracles and teaching was varied.   
  (Luke 11:14-15; John 9:16; 10:19-21)

“***Who do people say that that the Son of Man is?”*** (Matthew 16:13; cf., John 7:40-44)

**Even at the cross**, we see a wide and varying response to Jesus suffering and crucifixion.

3 - **Joseph of Arimathea**

***“…A disciple of Jesus, but a secret one***…”   
(John 19:38)

More concerned about what man thinks of them than God thinks of them?

4 – **Judas**

“…***they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver. And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity…”*** (Matt. 26:15)

At the cross, Judas represents all whose focus in life is on the material things.

5 - **Thief #1**

At the cross, this thief represented a soul with a hardened heart that would not see the truth.

**“…*one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’”***

**Luke 23:39**

**6 - Thief #2**

At the cross, he represents all those whose **sole focus in life is on God’s kingdom.**

*“…****Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”***

7 - **The 3 Mary’s**

Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the wife of Clopas (His mother’s sister) and Mary Magdalene.

At the cross, they represented **loyalty and dedication to the Messiah.**

**“…*standing by the cross of Jesus* …”**

John 19:25-27; Matthew 27:55-56

8 - **The 3 Mary’s**

* What God wants is our loyalty. (Hosea 6:6)
* Proverbs 20:6, “*Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man*?”
* Recognized the new relationships that Jesus brought them into (“*from that hour the disciple brought her into his own household*”, John 19:25-27).
* A trustworthy witness. (John 20:11-18)
* Be thou faithful until death. (Revelation 2:10)

9 – **Pilate**

At the cross, Pilate represented the man who knows what’s right but doesn’t have the courage to follow through with his convictions…

* ***“…that you may know that I find no guilt in Him…Pilate made efforts to release Him…so he then delivered Him to them to be crucified…”***

John 19:4, 12, 16

10 – **Pilate**

Pilate was scared (John 19:8) but not convicted enough to do the right thing, just like Felix in Acts 24:25.

We have to overcome the spirit of timidity and pray for a heart of power, love and discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Even Paul understood the need for boldness and courage.   
(Ephesians 6:18-20; cf., Philippians 1:14)

11 – **Peter**

At the cross, Peter represents the man who desires to follow courageously but whose faith fails him at a key moment – ashamed but then emboldened to preach the gospel for the rest of his life.

Luke 22:60-61, ***“… ‘I do not know what you are talking about.’…a cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.”***

12 – **Peter**

Challenged by Satan (Luke 22:31-33) *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your* ***faith may not fail****; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

* His fail did fail, but he also did “***turn again***”.
* How will we respond when our faith fails us?

13 - **3000 Souls**

Represents those whose heart is convicted by the knowledge of the truth.

Undoubtedly were some of those who shouted, ***“crucify Him! Crucify Him!”***.

50 Days later, Peter convicts them of their sin. (Acts. 2:22ff)

Willing to confess their sin and do something about it.

Convicted, they simply ask, ***“what shall we do?”*** – about?

14 - **Who represents you at the cross?**

1. **Joseph of Aramathea** - A secret disciple?
2. **Judas** - Someone in love with the things of the world?
3. **Thief** **#1** - A humble heart seeking God’s kingdom?
4. **Thief #2** - A heart hardened by sin?
5. **The 3 Mary’s** - A loyal and faithful servant?
6. **Pilate** - Someone who knows what’s right but lacks the courage to do it?
7. **Peter** - A heart convicted of sin and a failed faith that turns again?
8. **The 3000 souls** - who rendered their obedience to the gospel.

15 - **Jesus Christ**

All of these were at the cross only because Jesus Christ was ON the cross, having sacrificed Himself for our sins.

He laid down His life (1 John 3:16; John 10:11, 17-18) so that might be able to be forgiven of our sins by being born again through the waters of baptism. (John 3:3, 5; Romans 6:3-4)

He shed His blood and gave His life that you and I might live through Him if we will respond to His call today.