

- How would we like to have lived when **Jesus** actually walked the face of the **Earth**? Can you picture it in your mind? Imagine if...

You Were There

- Even though the **Galatians** were mostly **Gentile** converts who might not have been in **Jerusalem** at the time of **Christ's** crucifixion, **Paul** addressed them as if they had been.

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, **before whose eyes** Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

- evidently set forth- **Gk.4270**- Thayer: *to depict or betray openly* before whose eyes was portrayed the picture of Jesus Christ crucified (the attentive contemplation of which picture ought to have been a preventative against that bewitchment), i.e. who were taught most definitely plainly concerning the meritorious efficacy (*effectiveness, value*) of the death of Christ. They were explained to, in detail to the point of actually feeling as though they were there, what **Jesus** went through to obtain their salvation from eternal punishment. It was the next best thing to having a **Hollywood**, all-star production on the big screen at the local drive-in. (*Notice I said "the next best thing".*)

- When some of us were kids there was a weekly television series hosted by famed news anchor **Walter Cronkite** that had to do with noted historical events. It was hosted as though **Mr. Cronkite** was the reporter covering the news at a particular time in history and after stating the event and time to be covered he would say "And You Are There". The **Bible** can be considered our own personal "**Walter Cronkite**". With it I would like to take us on a brief trip back through time to the **most talked about** event that actually **did** change the course of history along with some of the characters that took part in the events of that day and those leading up to it. One event of which involved that infamous kiss and by reading about it you too can witness ...

...Jesus being betrayed with a kiss.

Mat 26:48 Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He: hold Him fast. **49** And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master; and kissed Him. **50** And Jesus said unto him, **Friend, wherefore art thou come?** Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took Him.

Luk 22:48 But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

- It would be difficult to put ourselves in **Judas'** place. What was going through his mind? Hadn't he witnessed the signs that **Jesus** had performed while with **Him**? Wasn't he himself able to work the miracles that were given to him along with the other disciples?

Mat 10:1 And when He had called unto *Him* His twelve disciples, He gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

- There was something else about **Judas** though, that made him do what he did only to later regret it wishing "**he had not been born**" (**Mat 26:24**). When noting what a certain woman did for **Jesus** before **His** death, **Judas** revealed his true inner nature.

Joh 12:4 Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray Him, **5** Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? **6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

- He was essentially their treasurer. But he also had a problem with “the love of money” (*1 Tim 6:10*). It got the best of him before his conscience finally got ahold of him.

Mat 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed Him, when he saw that He (*Jesus*) was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, **4** Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What *is that* to us? see thou *to that*. **5** And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

- Like anyone else, if only **Judas** would have truly repented of his sin of betrayal, like **Peter**, he could have been forgiven. But alas, his last act on earth was to commit the sin of murder, his own.

By reading the Bible we can witness...
...Peter denying Jesus to the point of cursing.

Mar 14:66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: **67** And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. **68** But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. **69** And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is *one* of them. **70** And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art *one* of them: for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth *thereto*. **71** But he began to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not this man of Whom ye speak. **72** And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, **Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice**. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

- With **20/20** hindsight we can be pompous enough to make the claim that we would never have done as **Peter** did. Maybe so. But **Peter** would later, once he had that **20/20** hindsight, give his very life, having regretted not giving it the first time when asked if he was with **Jesus**.

By reading the Bible we can witness...
...the scribe or elder that spit in Jesus face and beat Him.

Mat 26:63 But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God. **64** Jesus saith unto him, **Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven**. **65** Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard His blasphemy. **66** What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. **67** Then did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him; and others smote *Him* with the palms of their hands, **68** Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote Thee?

- Sadly, it's the religious world that denies **Jesus** most anymore. Denominationalism, with all the false doctrines associated with it, has given the truth a black eye just as what **Jesus** must have received from those the high priest spoke to while leveling false accusations against **Him**. **Jesus** knew who it was that smote **Him** and that soul will have to answer for it when he bends his knee at the judgment, unless of course he's repented in the meantime.

When we read the Bible we can see...
...one of the chief priests or elders who persuaded others to deny Him.

Mat 27:15 Now at *that* feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. **16** And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

- **Pilate** had brought **Jesus** before the mob having said "Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him". (*Jn 19:4*) In his mind he must have thought that if he would present another prisoner, much more vile and despised than he thought **Jesus** would appear to be, he might get his wish to let **Jesus** go.

Mat 27:17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? **18** For he knew that for envy they had delivered Him. **19** When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him. **20** But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

- Sometimes today there are **Christians** who persuade others to deny **Christ** by denying **Him** themselves through their actions or even their inactions. Like not wording a prayer in thanksgiving to **God** for a meal in a public place such as a restaurant.

Mat 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, He delivered *Him* to be crucified.

- Every time we deny **Jesus** we release **Barabbas** to the mob we are giving in to.

When we read the Bible we can witness...
...the Roman soldier who mocked Him.

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto Him the whole band *of soldiers*. **28** And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe. **29** And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

- How many people living in the world today do you know that do something similar to what these soldiers did back then, mock **Jesus**. They get a big kick out of making such blasphemous remarks in your presence about the **One Person Who** could be their **Advocate** when death comes knocking on their door. But they will someday literally do just that too, bow.

Rom 14:11 For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

- As though the mockery wasn't enough, the soldiers continued doing the things they would one day soon regret having done.

Mat 27:30 And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head. 31 And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off from Him, and put His own raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

We then witness...
...the Roman soldiers that stole from Him.

Mat 27:35 And they crucified Him, and parted His garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted My garments among them, and upon My vesture did they cast lots. 36 And sitting down they watched Him there;

- Have you ever wondered, what they wanted with or do with Jesus' blood stained garments? Were they collectors pieces as though proof of some conquest or maybe just extra clothing for the colder nights? What do you suppose they were thinking while sitting there? At least one soldier was affected by all that happened.

Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, **Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit:** and having said thus, He gave up the ghost. 47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

“The conduct of Jesus upon the cross and the disturbances of nature which accompanied His death convinced the centurion that Jesus was a righteous man. But knowing that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, and this claim was the real cause for which the Jews were crucifying Him, he concludes, since he concedes that Jesus is righteous, that He is also all that He professed to be--the Son of God (Mat 27:54). There is no just reason for minimizing his confession, as though he had said, "A son of the gods;" for he said nothing of that kind, and those err as to the use of Scriptural language who think so”.

McGarvey

- In Matthew's account there were others with the Centurion when he commented on the events that transpired during Jesus' death. In Luke's account he is noted as referring to Jesus as “a righteous man” but in Matthew's record he refers to Him as “the Son of God”. McGarvey is correct in his commentary on this passage. The Greek reads “Θεου υιος ην ουτος” or “God's_Son_was_this”. How can it be any wonder that God has always loved all people and not just those who brought the Messiah into the world. For the most part the Jews rejected Jesus but Gentiles, like this and many other Centurions, had such faith that prompted Jesus to say of one in particular “many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat 8:11)

And where else would we find, but in the Bible...
...His crucifixion.

Mat 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous, 30 And say, **If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them** in the blood of

the prophets. **31** Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

- As descendants of mankind, even though maybe not directly related to the **Jews** or **Romans** who were responsible for taking the life of **Christ**, we are the offspring of **Adam** and thus, like the rest of mankind, are guilty of sin. We then also are guilty of **His** death. And not that **Adam's** sin has been passed on to all mankind, the consequence of it has.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

- A person today might say “O but I never would have consented to His death if I was there”. There are a lot of people that would not just say that but would actually stand against **His** crucifixion, as many then did. But why did **Jesus** come in the first place?

Isa 53:5 But He *was* wounded for **our** transgressions, *He was* bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with **His** stripes **we** are healed.

- He went to the cross **because** of **our** sins, not for **His** own because **He knew no sin** (**2 Cor 5:21**). It was **our** sin that nailed **Him** to the cross, **our** sin that betrayed **Him** as if we would have been there and betrayed **Him** as did **Judas** himself. It was **our** sin that **Jesus** came to take away so in reality, we **did** yell “crucify Him, crucify Him” (**Lk 23:21**). And **we** repeat that heinous act every time one of **us** walks away from our commitment to **Him**.

Heb 6:4 For *it is impossible (Gk.102- unable, that is, weak [literally or figuratively]; passively impossible)* for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing **they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh**, and put *Him* to an open shame.

1Pe 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?
18 And if the righteous (*Gk.1342- innocent, holy*) scarcely (*Gk.3433- with difficulty*) be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

- Not that the way to salvation is difficult to understand because “God is not the author of confusion” (**1 Cor 14:33**), but that there **is only one way!** And that one way is only traveled by the innocent who’ve had their sins washed away by the blood of the cross of **Christ**.

Mat 27:32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear His cross.

- Instead of those who would deny **Jesus**, wouldn’t you rather be another **Simon of Cyrene**? In the great commission there is plenty of room to help carry the cross of **Christ**.

When we read the account of His crucifixion we understand...

...the cross was a crime scene.

- A Crime Scene Investigator's job is to examine the area where a crime is committed to find evidence that could be admissible in court once a person, or persons, of interest, one who has motive, has been established. Every crime has a victim and **Christ** was surely the victim that particular day on Mt. Calvary. All the evidence of criminal activity was there. The fingerprints on the hammer and nails, representative our sin, and **His** DNA, in the form of **His** blood, was, and is, on our hands. But instead of sitting in the defendants seat making accusation against us or as witness for the prosecution, instead of standing as prosecutor or sitting as a juror, **He** stands as our **Advocate**, as our defense attorney. **Jesus** is pleading **our** case before the **Judge** of the universe, **His** own **Father**. Imagine being the judge when your own son is pleading the case of a murderer who murdered him! This **He** is doing just like **He** did on that history altering day before **Passover**, A. D. 33, when **His** plea then was...

“**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**” (*Lk 23:34*)

- **His** plea is the same today but **He** will always, as a loving **Savior**, honor our right to deny **Him**. But ultimately, it is **God's** sincere desire that all of **His** creation be saved.

Eze 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: *and* not that he should return from his ways, and live?

- **Walter Cronkite** used to begin each of that series with “**You Are There!**”, and not everyone remembers that program so not everyone would have been able to experience it. But, we all have **Bibles** to read and recall that one particular day during **Passover** as **though** we were there, just as how **Paul** was reminding the **Galatians** of their experience of having heard about it back then. But on the day of judgment, all **will** be **physically** present. It will be the last act in the history of man on earth and all **will** be there. From **Judas** to the **Roman** soldiers to the scribes, chief priests and elders along with multitudes upon multitudes from since the beginning of time. You and I will be there also. But where will you be standing?

Mat 25:32 And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: 33 And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of My hand.

- So do you hear **Jesus' voice**? If not...

#1. You need to hear

Luk 11:28 Jesus said, “... **blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.**”

#2. You need to believe

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after** that ye **heard** the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in Whom also **after** that ye **believed**, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Who is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

#3. You need to repent

Mat 9:13 “... I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. You need to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God

Mat 10:32 “Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in heaven.”

#5. You need to have your sins washed away

Act 2:37 Now when they **heard** *this*, they were pricked in their heart (*because they believed what they heard*), and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, **what shall we do?**

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, “**Repent**, and **be baptized** every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** (*acknowledging His “Sonship”*) **for** the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (*the “earnest of our inheritance”*).”

#6. Once you’ve done all these things, you need to remain faithful

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

#7. You need to resolve to keep growing

Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may **abound** yet **more and more in knowledge** and *in* all judgment; **10** That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may **be sincere** and without offence till the day of Christ; **11** Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

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