

The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God's wrath to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers.

Author Unknown

All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning.
Oswald Chambers

The supreme example of controlling, directing influence which God exerts upon the wicked, is the Cross of Christ with all its attendant circumstances. If ever the superintending providence of God was witnessed, it was there. From all eternity God had predestined every detail of that event of all events. Nothing was left to chance or the caprice of man. God had decreed when and where and how His blessed Son was to die.... Not a thing occurred except as God had ordained, and all that He had ordained took place exactly as He purposed.

A.W. Pink

All Christ's sufferings on the cross were foreordained. They did not come on Him by chance or accident: they were all planned, counseled, and determined from all eternity. The cross was foreseen in all the provisions of the everlasting Trinity, for the salvation of sinners. In the purposes of God the cross was set up from everlasting. Not one throb of pain did Jesus feel, not one precious drop of blood did Jesus shed, which had not been appointed long ago. Infinite wisdom planned that redemption should be by the cross. Infinite wisdom brought Jesus to the cross in due time. He was crucified by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.

J.C. Ryle

(Jesus) rose up from the place where the kingdoms of the world shimmered before Him, where crowns flashed and banners rustled, and hosts of enthusiastic people were ready to acclaim Him, and quietly walked the way of poverty and suffering to the cross.

Helmut Thielicke

Who is in Charge?

Luke 22:54-23:7

Introduction: In 4 interrelated episodes, Luke shows that Jesus has been rejected at every level. In each case, the question revolves around *who Jesus is!* And, amazingly, in all four cases they miss the truth, even though it is right in front of them! This can only be explained one way: *God's predetermined plan and foreknowledge have brought about this seemingly tragic set of circumstances precisely so that the Cross will be a reality.*

The Power of Unbelief . . .

Peter and Jesus

Luke 22:54-62

The prediction and prayer: vs. 31,32

The denials

What Peter missed: *The Friend of Sinners*

The Soldiers and Jesus

Luke 22:63-65

The beating and the blasphemy

The question

What the soldiers missed: *The Lord of Hosts*

The Religious Leaders and Jesus

Luke 22:66-71

The questions

Jesus' declaration

What the religious leaders missed: *The Messiah*

The Governing Authorities and Jesus

Luke 23:1-7

The lies and the question

Jesus' response

What the authorities missed: *King of Kings*

Applying these truths to life ...

How do we explain the fact that everyone got it wrong, when the truth was so clearly set before them?

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Some Preliminary Thoughts: *The Power of Unbelief . . .*

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Kids Notes

Who is in charge?

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Peter denied that he knew Jesus:*

- A. three times.
- B. and lost all of his faith.
- C. and died as a result.
- D. all of the above.

2. *When Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King, Jesus said:*

- A. I am the king!.
- B. Caesar is the king.
- C. It is as you say.
- D. none of the above.

3. *The sermon today was meant to show that:*

- A. the cross was brought about by God's plan and power.
- B. Peter wasn't really a disciple of Jesus.
- C. the Roman soldiers were not men of integrity.
- D. all of the above.

For Family Discussion: How do you explain the fact that Peter denied that he knew Jesus, but later became a bold preacher of the Gospel (Acts 2)?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

DENIAL _____	TOTAL: _____
SOLDIERS _____	_____
JESUS _____	_____
PLAN _____	_____
CROSS _____	_____
KING _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

DENIAL SOLDIERS JESUS PLAN REDEMPTION CROSS KING SAVIOR
 FRIEND SINNERS CONSUL CENTURION ROME PILATE HEROD
 POWER UGLY UNBELIEF PROVIDENCE FOREKNOWLEDGE SIN FAITH
 THEME CHANGE JUDEA GALILEE POWER RIGHT HAND

S K N E C L K E L E S U R Y N X R
 R O G Q G E Y F C S C N I L O Q O
 W Z L Z X D H N I N H B G G I Y I
 P S K D J T E N U W A E H U T Z V
 R X Z E I D N L J P N L T H P R A
 Q E S A I E E T W B G I Y Z M E S
 H U F V R Q R X H O E E B M E W A
 S G O S C O N S U L N F J K D O C
 P R C E N T U R I O N K D N E P S
 P S S O R C F J D E M L E O R R B
 X I T H E M E L U P M I A R R G F
 E E L I L A G D L D R O Z I O E V
 S I N A G X N A W F E I R J N F H
 G N I K T A N T G Y R A X U S E N
 Z W M K H E B X E I O O R I C P D