

THE CROSS, THE CHRIST, AND THE CROWD

Luke 23:33–43

It is a fact of history that a Jewish man named Jesus lived morally, taught powerfully, and died horrifically in the first century. Ancient literature is littered with attestations to his existence, reputation, popularity, teachings, and eventual execution (see, for example, the works of non-believing first-century historians like Thallus, Tacitus, and Josephus). So, the question that any honest person must ask themselves isn't so much "Did this *really* happen?" but, rather, "Since it *did* happen, how should I respond?" And, as we'll be reminded from Luke's record of Christ's crucifixion, there are only a few possibilities. First, we can respond in *passivity*, apathetically or ignorantly doing nothing. Second, we can respond in *mockery*, arrogantly dismissing the life and death of Jesus as nonsense, insignificant, or mere superstition. Finally and ideally, we can respond with *dependancy*, recognizing our personal need of what his sacrifice provides.

The CROSS

It was agonizing vv. 33, 39

It was humiliating vv. 34–36, 39

It was propagandizing vv. 35, 37–39

The CHRIST

His innocence vv. 33, 41

His identity vv. 34–35, 37

The CROWD

Standing in passivity v. 35

Rejecting in mockery vv. 35–39

Believing with dependancy vv. 40–43