

**Easter** is a special time of the year but sometimes its meaning gets lost in the celebrating of the holiday.

I wonder if we don't see Christ's love as much in the people he tolerated as in the pain he endured. This was truly a story of **Amazing Grace** revealed to all those around.

**Judas.** Why Judas betrayed his Master is really not important. Whether motivated by anger or greed, the end was the same – regret.

**Pilate** almost let Christ go. “Almost” with the Master, it is just as good as a “never”.

**The Thief on the Cross** Why did Christ love him so much? This man could do nothing for Christ! Jesus' love does not depend upon what we do for him. All of us deserve heaven about as much as that crook did. No one else would give him a prayer. But in the end that is all that he had. And in the end, that is all it took.

**There was some dice-throwing that went on at the foot of the cross.**

Don't gamble with your soul today. Don't gamble that you even have today or another day.

**John** was the one who stuck with Christ. He is the only one we find at the cross. He was a simple loyal friend to Christ. He gave us John 3:16. A simple verse of God's eternal plan of salvation.

**Nicodemus & Joseph of Arimathea.** It's a bit ironic that the burial of Jesus should be conducted, not by those who had boasted they would never leave, but by 2 members of the Sanhedrin – 2 representatives of the religious group that killed the Messiah. All of us freed from the depths of sin and the darkness of hopelessness it brings. It's not easy to light a candle in a dark cavern. Yet those of us who have had the Light revealed to us are grateful for those who were faithful to carry the Light in years past.

**The 10 Disciples** scattered – ran. Where did they go after the crucifixion? No one knows. All their fears, doubts are unrecorded. One thing we do know. Suspended somewhere between, “I can't believe I did it” and “I'll never do it again”. We've all been there. We've all done the thing we swore we'd never do.

**Peter** who had walked with Christ and said he would never deny him. Did so three times before the rooster crowed the next morning.

**Thomas, “Doubting Thomas”.**

**Barabbas** has often been compared to humanity, and rightly so. In many ways he stands for us: a prisoner who was freed because someone he had never seen took his place. He received an underserved gift – so did we.

Why don't more accept this free gift? Pride. Barabbas was on death row, and so were we without Christ. He didn't understand mercy and certainly didn't deserve it but he wasn't about to refuse it. Why then do we? Why some prefer to stay in prison while the cell door has been unlocked and opened is a mystery to me.

With your help we have the opportunity to help release those in their prison of sin. We need more churches to tell others about the true Christ of the cross. Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry. Only eternity will reveal all Christ has done with all of us.

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