The Comedy of the Cross

Good morning All! Happy Resurrection morning! I hope all of you are looking forward to celebrating the Miraculous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There has never been anything in this world to compare to this event, and there never will be. It totally upstages any human event that has ever taken a temporary spotlight.

It is an event that people are still talking about, all over the world, every minute of every day. There have been many famous human events, which made major headlines during their day, but which are only remembered, now and then.

August 30, 586 BC – First Jewish temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar

March 15, 44 BC- Caesar stabbed to death by conspiracy of Roman Senators

August 30, 70 AD- Jerusalem totally demolished by Romans

October 31, 1517- Luther nailed 95 theses to door of the Roman Catholic Church

June 28, 1919- Treaty of Versailles ending WW1

December 7, 1941…7:48 A.M.- Attack on Pearl Harbor

August 6, 1945- Bomb dropped on Hiroshima

September 2nd, 1945- Final surrender of WW2

November 22, 1963- Assassination of JFK

September 11, 2001- Twin towers in New York tumble at hands of Islamic terrorists

All of these events are talked about, on occasion… but NO other event is discussed every day, in every nation, other than the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

There have been those who have vowed to reproduce a human resurrection, but to no avail. One American example was Harry Houdini. He was arguably the most famous magician, of all time, who was known for escaping from seemingly impossible confinements. He had convinced himself, and others, that he had the ability to beat death, and that he would make that his final great escape trick. It is storied that he had paid ahead for a telephone line for many years, and had a phone put in his casket. He gave his wife a secret code, and told her that he would contact her from the grave.

Unfortunately beating death was one feat Harry was not able to perfect, or execute; and no one has heard from him since his casket was closed, and he was lowered into the cold, hard ground.

Let me say this, there is coming, one final great magician, and master illusionist, who will, one day soon, seemingly rise from the dead, after receiving a fatal head wound, and fool billions of human beings on Planet Earth. This will be a man the Bible labels the Anti-Christ. During the Tribulation Period, he will appear to be clinically dead, and will rise from the dead. People will be fooled, and literally, billions will follow him like sheep, to their eternal destruction. The Pied Piper of eternal DEATH…Satan himself!

As always, Satan does everything in his power to copy-cat the Real Savior of mankind; but will come up way short, once again. There was only one Jesus, and only one real Resurrection; and you and I, and many other born-again believers, will be celebrating **THAT** Resurrection today, worldwide.

Satan has utter disdain, and a burning hatred for our Savior; and his goal is to deceive, and hood-wink, as many of God’s creation as possible, and do his utmost best to make God out to be a liar. He has done this for nearly 6000 years, and will continue doing it, until a mighty angel, possibly Michael the Archangel, throws his lying, flea-bitten, and defeated carcass into the burning Lake of Fire.

On most Easter Sundays, in most churches, they will read through the Scripture, which describe the amazing, and 100% true, Resurrection story. It doesn’t matter what type of church. Any who use the name of Jesus will most likely read these same texts. It doesn’t matter if they are Roman Catholic, Methodist, Mormon, Jehovah’s witnesses, Orthodox, Presbyterian, Non-denominational, etc….they will all read the same account. It is a universal story, understood by a few in it’s fullness, but used by most as nothing more than just another Bible story, with no real understanding, or anything different than reading about John the Baptist, or Moses, or Mary, on the following week.

**Luke 29**

1On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-2.htm)They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [**3**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-3.htm)but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-4.htm)While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. [**5**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-5.htm)In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? [**6**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-6.htm)He is not here; **he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: [**7**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-7.htm)‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” [**8**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-8.htm)Then they remembered his words.[**9**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-9.htm)When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-10.htm)It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-11.htm)But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/luke/24-12.htm)Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

**Verse 6:** He has risen! That was the way that those who believed in, and were dedicated to following Jesus greeted each other after the Resurrection. One would say…”He is risen!”; and the other would say “He is risen indeed!”. But to most, it was just another of the intriguing events surrounding this controversial man named Jesus.

**[Q]** What do you suppose the everyday, great multitudes of non-believers, of Jesus’ day, believed about this super-natural event? (What they were told…There was nothing super-natural here at all)

**Matthew 28**

11While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. [**12**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/28-12.htm)When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, [**13**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/28-13.htm)telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ [**14**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/28-14.htm)If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” [**15**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/28-15.htm)So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Satan, and his followers, began from Day 1 of the Resurrection to spread lies about what had really happened. **[Q]** Has this ever stopped? (No, it has gotten even worse. Satan has devised an even more grandiose scheme to cover it up… we call it Easter)

Here is what I would like you to understand about this event, which we memorialize annually, on one day, as a church. It is not just those who are part of a church that celebrate this, but so do the multitudes of those who have, and want, nothing to do with the church, or real Christianity, worldwide. You might find this interesting…

Even predominantly secular, atheistic, and mostly Godless Russians celebrate Easter…

Russians celebrate Easter with decorated eggs and special foods and customs. Many Russians also thoroughly clean their house before the Easter holidays, and the Easter holiday in general is seen as a day of rest and family gathering.

The Russian Easter egg tradition dates back to pre-Christian times when people saw eggs as fertility symbols and as devices of protection--eggs represented new life. When Orthodoxy was adopted, eggs took on Christian symbolism. One example of this is how red eggs symbolize the blood of Christ.

The Russian Easter service may be attended even by those families that do not regularly attend church. Russian Easter service is held Saturday evening. Midnight serves as the high point of the service, at which point bells are rung and the priest says, "Christ is risen!" The congregation replies with, "He is truly risen!"

The trivialization of what should be the world’s most historic, and meaningful event, exists globe-wide. It is obvious that non-Christians have totally different reasons for enjoying the Easter Holiday; but what saddens me even more, is the manner in which the majority of Christians, who say they love Christ, approach it.

In reality, not much differently than those who don’t know Christ…Pretty dresses, eggs, and good food with family. For the most part, if they choose to go to a church, it is pretty much just another Sunday, but with a repeated Easter message attached.

Quick question to ponder… **[Q]** Should a parent tell their small children that the Easter bunny, and Santa, for that matter, are fantasy? (My feeling is 100% YES. If not, at some future time, they will find out, and then there is a very good chance, they will throw the “imaginary Jesus” into that same category, and take for granted that one day they will discover that you were just spoofing them about Him also). Taking this step will make you very unpopular amongst your peers; especially if your little ones go to school, and spill the beans to the other little munchkins.

Just for giggles, let me share one other bit of information with you, in case you have never researched this for yourselves…

The word Easter comes to us from the Norsemen's Eostur, Eastar, Ostara, and Ostar, and the pagan goddess Eostre, all of which involve the season of the growing sun and new birth. The [Easter Bunny](http://cocktails.about.com/od/cocktailrecipes/r/easter_bunny.htm) arose originally as a symbol of fertility, due to the rapid reproduction habits of the hare and rabbit.  
  
The ancient Egyptians, Persians, Phoenicians, and Hindus all believed the world began with an enormous egg, thus the egg as a symbol of new life has been around for eons. The particulars may vary, but most cultures around the world use the egg as a symbol of new life and rebirth. A notation in the household accounts of Edward I of England showed an expenditure of eighteen pence for 450 eggs to be gold-leafed and colored for Easter gifts. The first book to mention Easter eggs by name was written five hundred years ago. Yet, a North African tribe that had become Christian much earlier in time had a custom of [coloring eggs](http://homecooking.about.com/od/foodhistory/a/eggcoloringhist.htm) at Easter.

As Bo had mentioned last week, the church attendance will go up on this day called Easter, and also Christmas during any given year. The “CEO” pseudo-Christians (Christmas and Easter Only) make their grand entrances, and everyone gushes over seeing them once again. It is just a fun, warm and fuzzy, day for family, and friends.

This morning I would like us to get very serious about how those of us who truly love Christ should be approaching, pondering, meditating upon, and celebrating this event.

Let me warn you…This is going to be a very serious message, and not the light, joyous norm you may have experienced time and time again in Easter services. Let’s start here…

**Isaiah 53**

1Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? [**2**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-2.htm)He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

[**3**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-3.htm)He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-4.htm)Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

[**5**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-5.htm)But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-6.htm)We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

[**7**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-7.htm)He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-8.htm)By oppression[***a***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes)[**9**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-9.htm)He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence,

nor was any deceit in his mouth. [**10**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-10.htm)Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) his life an offering for sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-11.htm)After he has suffered, he will see the light of life[***d***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) and be satisfied[***e***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) ;

by his knowledge[***f***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities..12Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,[g](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) and he will divide the spoils with the strong,[h](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) because **he poured out his life unto death**, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. ***{Put a marker here…we will come back a couple of times}***

If what we just read together doesn’t sadden you, then, truthfully, I would have to wonder if you really have a personal relationship with this Amazing Man. **[Q]** Have you ever really stopped long enough to ponder the existence of this man, who at one time, prior to this life of sorrow, sat at the right hand of the Creator of the Universe, in splendid Glory, with quadrillions of angels glorifying, praising, and worshipping Him?

Out of all that we read, I want to focus in on one particular phrase, within one verse, that should literally break our hearts, as we ponder it…

[**12**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-12.htm)Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,[***g***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes)and he will divide the spoils with the strong,[***h***](http://biblehub.com/niv/isaiah/53.htm#footnotes) because **he poured out his life unto death**, and was numbered with the transgressors

**[Q]** What is the depth of this phrase…”**He poured out His life unto death**”? (Let’s think about it together for the rest of this message)

There are some clues as to the kind of life this amazing man was made to live, in order that you and I could be given the opportunity to go to Heaven, that is…if we are astute enough to accept it, and give up our own lives, in turn, to receive it.

Verse 2…He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

The King James version states that He had no “**comeliness**”. If we would take time to trace down the Hebrew meanings of this word, we would find that Jesus was not a handsome man, and would have been considered what we would describe as homely.

**[Q]** Isn’t it true that we, as human beings, are intrigued by, and drawn to the handsome, and beautiful people. They take center stage any time they enter a party, or gathering. They are given pre-eminence, key positions, and praise. They may be scoundrels, but it doesn’t seem to matter much.

The Jesus depicted in the Jesus movie, which was so popular, was highly charismatic, charming, and very, very handsome. This was not the Jesus of the Bible. I believe God made Him very plain, and even less than plain.. .homely; on purpose; so there would be nothing else but His message that drew crowds.

**[Q]** What else did Jesus have to deal with in His short life? (**#1**- From day one of His life, it was suspicioned that He was illegitimate…because of the nature of the virgin birth)

**John 1**

43The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”[**44**](http://biblehub.com/john/1-44.htm)Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. [**45**](http://biblehub.com/john/1-45.htm)Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”[**46**](http://biblehub.com/john/1-46.htm)“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

Not only was Jesus born homely, and under the suspicion of being illegitimate, but He grew up in one of the poorest, and least influential villages in Israel…Nazareth.

Nazareth was a very small (less than 500 people) village in the most desolate, and out-of the-way province of Galilee, in the very North portion of Isarel…far away from the splendor, and prestige of living in Jerusalem. It was so insignificant, that it was not even mentioned by Jewish secular sources for the first three centuries.

On top of all this, He was born into a poor family; and He never really had much of anything during His earthly existence.

**Luke 9**

57As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”[**58**](http://biblehub.com/luke/9-58.htm)Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

He was dirt poor…on purpose. He had no intentions of becoming rich with earthly goods; and He did not want His disciples to be any different. He did not live a life of luxury.

Here is what I am trying to convey to you here this morning. It isn’t just His horrendous death on the Cross, prior to His Resurrection, that we should be struck with; but the fact that He truly did give up His whole life, and suffered greatly, not just on the Cross, but day after day after day…for us.

**Isaiah 53**

[**3**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-3.htm)He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem

**[Q]** Did Isaiah prophesy correctly concerning Jesus’ life? (Let’s check…Jesus gives us this answer Himself)

**John 15**

18“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. [**19**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-19.htm)If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-20.htm)Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/john/15.htm#footnotes) If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

[**21**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-21.htm)They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. [**22**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-22.htm)If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. [**23**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-23.htm)Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. [**24**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-24.htm)If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. [**25**](http://biblehub.com/john/15-25.htm)But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘**They hated me without reason**.’[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/john/15.htm#footnotes)

Jesus admits it…they hated him; and for no reason. **[Q]** How would you like to go through your life being hated, for no good reason? (Look at this…)

**Acts 10**

34Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism [**35**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-35.htm)but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. [**36**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-36.htm)You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. [**37**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-37.htm)You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— [**38**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-38.htm)how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how **he went around doing good and healing all** who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.[**39**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-39.htm)“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, [**40**](http://biblehub.com/acts/10-40.htm)but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

**Verse 38:** He went about doing good, and healing people…constantly. He never did ONE THING bad, in His whole life on Earth. He was perfect, and offered a perfect love to all He came in contact with…but yet, as Isaiah prophesied… He was despised, rejected, suffered constantly, and knew extensively, and continually, both mental and physical pain… and all for being good. Go figure…

Let’s look in on a couple of scenes, just to refresh our memories of how bad it was…

**Luke 8**

49While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”[**50**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-50.htm)Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

[**51**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-51.htm)When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. [**52**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-52.htm)Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.”[**53**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-53.htm)**They laughed at him**, knowing that she was dead. [**54**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-54.htm)But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” [**55**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-55.htm)Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. [**56**](http://biblehub.com/luke/8-56.htm)Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

**Verse 53**: The King James states this a bit more clearly, and I am convinced that there was definitely something lost in the translation here…

**KJV**: And they **laughed him to scorn**, knowing that she was dead. {**katagelao**} kat-ag-el-ah’-o… to deride; laughter mixed with ridicule

They weren’t just laughing at Him, but were rolling with laughter, mixed strongly with ridicule; **DERIDE**: scoff and jeer at; mock; show contempt. Synonymous with taunting; bantering, and flouting. I’m sure they were swearing right along with it.

They were saying by their rude, and cruel, bantering that you are so ridiculously stupid, that it is beyond humorous…you buffoon…you ignoramus…you outright idiot…you crazy man…you illegitimate lunatic!

**[Q]** How do you like it when someone does that to you…especially when you know 100% that you are correct? (No one does…nor do I)

**[Q]** What do we want to do in our flesh? (Lash out, and defend ourselves)

It wasn’t just those whom He met as He began His 3 year ministry, who attacked Him, but even those who could hurt Him most…

**Mark 3**

20Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/mark/3-21.htm)When his family[***b***](http://biblehub.com/niv/mark/3.htm#footnotes) heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “**He is out of his mind**.”

31Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. [**32**](http://biblehub.com/mark/3-32.htm)A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

[**33**](http://biblehub.com/mark/3-33.htm)“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

[**34**](http://biblehub.com/mark/3-34.htm)Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! [**35**](http://biblehub.com/mark/3-35.htm)Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

When your family turns on you also…it hurts tremendously!

**[Q]** How do you suppose Jesus handled it within Himself? (With this mindset…)

**Romans 5**

6You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/romans/5-7.htm)Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. [**8**](http://biblehub.com/romans/5-8.htm)But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

Let’s very quickly look at just a few more instances…

**Matthew 26**

62Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” [**63**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-63.htm)But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”[**64**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-64.htm)“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”[***e***](http://biblehub.com/niv/matthew/26.htm#footnotes) [**65**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-65.htm)Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. [**66**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-66.htm)What do you think?”“He is worthy of death,” they answered. [**67**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-67.htm)**Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him**[**68**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-68.htm)and said, “Prophesy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”

**[Q]** Who hit you smarty pants? C’mon…do something about it if you are a King! (Let me just add this quickly. He knows EXACTLY who hit Him, and will replay it for that person, or persons, someday soon)

Here is just a short list of what else Jesus had to endure in this process, prior to Resurrection…which we are celebrating today

* They pulled out His beard in handfuls (Isaiah prophesied this)
* They blackened His eyes
* They stripped Him naked, and beat Him to the point that the Bible states He was not recognizable as a human being. The films do not even come close to portraying the gore, and carnage of what His body looked like after the scourging.
* They threw Him down onto a Roman cross, and smashed 4-7” spikes through His wrists, and feet.
* They slammed, and ground in, a make-shift crown of thorns into His head, and mocked Him once again, as King.
* He hung with no covering, but completely naked, exposed to a world that detested Him
* He had no strength left to support the weight of His body, and because of the stress on His lungs, gasped for breath
* They continued to swear at Him, and jeer, and probably threw things at Him, while He experienced this horrific manner of death
* He had to watch His mother weeping uncontrollably in the crowd

What an awful ending to the life of a man who never hurt one person. Satan was busting his buttons, and laughing uncontrollably, as he, in his warped mind, had defeated the King of all Kings, and Lord of Lords. The worst had not yet come…

**Matthew 27**

45From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. [**46**](http://biblehub.com/matthew/27-46.htm)About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli,*[***c***](http://biblehub.com/niv/matthew/27.htm#footnotes) *lemasabachthani?”* (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).[***d***](http://biblehub.com/niv/matthew/27.htm#footnotes)

This, my friends, hurt multiple times more than anything else that had happened to Him during His entire existence… Jesus had never once not known the sweet fellowship between He and His Father. This was nearly unbearable.

I cannot imagine feeling like I have been abandoned by Jesus, and His Father, for even one minute. Now that I know Him personally, and walk with Him, and talk with Him, and have grown so close to Him, every day, it would be literally unbearable. I honestly do not know how any person goes through this crazy life without Jesus.

Jesus endured all of this for us…KNOWINGLY! He had asked the Father prior to this final scene beginning, if there were any other way to do this, and received no response. Jesus said…”If this is what must happen Father…you can count on me”.

Jesus didn’t just die on a Roman cross, and then get Gloriously resurrected. He gave up His total existence on Earth for us.

**Hebrews 12**

1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/12-2.htm)fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/12-3.htm)Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Believers…We have to stop worrying about who likes us, and who doesn’t. We have to stop licking what few wounds we may have taken for saying we are followers of Christ. We have to quit worrying about our earthly reputations.

**Verse 2**: For the Joy set before us, we should endure anything that comes our way as a result of our testimonies for Christ.

**Isaiah 53**

1Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? [**2**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-2.htm)He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-3.htm)He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-4.htm)Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

[**5**](http://biblehub.com/isaiah/53-5.htm)But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Oh yes…the celebrating of the Resurrection of our Lord, and Savior, is glorious, and a joyous occasion; but we should never forget the overwhelming price He paid to make us free, and to secure our place in His Kingdom, for eternity.

Folks…this season we call Easter, should be designated as Resurrection Day instead. We can’t change the secular mindset, or the name of the Holiday; but we can make it very clear to our households, and children, what we are celebrating.

Beyond that…this day should not be about us, and eggs, and chocolate bunnies, and a great meal. It should be about Jesus of Nazareth, a man of sorrows, who loved us so much, that He was willing to endure all of the shame, heartache, ridicule, and rejection, for the joy of what you and I would receive. Now THAT is worth celebrating!

**Celebrate the Lord’s Supper**