

The Man in Front of the Cross

Scripture Reference: Matthew 27:54

There is one verse in three of the Gospel accounts about an extraordinary man; the Roman Centurion who commanded the execution detail that ended JESUS' life. Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39, Luke 23:47

- I. A Centurion was a _____ Roman military officer that commanded between _____ elite soldiers.
 1. These leaders were the _____ of the Roman military spread across the Empire.
 2. A Roman Legion was made up of _____ men, divided up into _____ cohorts of _____, each century led by a Centurion.
 3. These tough, _____ men held significant power. They enforced _____, and always led _____.
 4. They wore a distinguishing helmet with a _____, worn ear-to-ear, making them _____ to the men they led. They were known for their great _____.

II. What this Centurion _____:

1. _____ was no stranger to this hard man. He may have _____ men die on crosses on a regular basis. Guilty men paid for their crimes with the ultimate price, _____.
2. It could be the Centurion and his soldiers _____ to the taking lives of others. He learned to _____ the screams, the weeping, the begging, the jeers from the crowd, and the crass comments and _____ actions of his troops.
3. He was "keeping _____/watch over JESUS." **Mt. 27:54** This was the most _____ and extraordinary man in Israel's history. The Centurion didn't know much about JESUS, but he knew enough to _____ to be there and _____ everything that happened. Plus, he was responsible (his duty) to his commanders to make sure that _____ with the execution. With this being Passover Week, crowded with possibly 2 million pilgrims, Jerusalem was a _____ of political and religious tension.
4. **Matthew 27:54** says that the soldiers "became extremely _____" when they saw the earthquake and darkness cover the whole land." **Luke 23:44-45**
5. **Mark 15:39** states, "when the Centurion saw the way he _____ _____ ... " He realized that this condemned man was _____ from all others.

Because this Holy Man:

- Didn't _____
- Didn't resist
- Didn't _____
- Didn't curse
- Didn't blame others
- Didn't _____
- Didn't make _____
- Didn't plead for _____

This condemned man did what the Centurion had never seen any other dying man do: HE _____ who killed HIM.

III. The Centurion _____ this dying man say: (with great effort)

1. "Father, _____ them, they don't know what they are doing" Luke 23:24
2. (to one of the condemned men beside HIM) "Today you will be _____ in paradise." Luke 23:43
3. (to Mary) "Woman, behold _____. Son, this is your Mother" John 19:26-27
4. "My GOD, why have you _____?" Mt. 27:46
5. "I am _____" John 19:28
6. "Into _____ I commit MY Spirit" Luke 23:46
7. With a loud voice, JESUS shouted, _____, it is Finished" (_____) Mt. 27:50, John 19:30

IV. What the Centurion _____: Romans 10:9-10

1. He _____ GOD. "Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God" Luke 23:47 Why would he do this?
2. "Certainly this man was _____." Luke 23:47, Isaiah 53:6
 - A. I am sure that if he thought JESUS was innocent, he must have concluded that he himself _____.
 - B. _____ actually killed JESUS?
3. He stated with conviction, _____."
 - A. The word, "Truly" – meant that the Centurion, with complete _____, with total transparency, and with heartfelt and new-found faith ... _____.
 - B. Believed what? That _____.
 - C. HOW did he know this? The _____ revealed it. John 16:8-11

V. The Resurrection of JESUS from the Tomb on Sunday morning, completed the _____ Put yourself in this historic moment.

