

WHY 3 Crosses ?

You've seen them haven't you the grouping of 3 crosses? I have seen them in fields along the highway, on the sides of Churches, worn around people's necks, tattooed on arms and on letterheads and business cards of multiple Christian organizations.

When I was searching for God in the beginning of my journey, I would ask Christians what these 3 crosses represented. More often than not I would be told they represented the Cross of Christ who came to die for my sins.

Occasionally a well-meaning but ill informed Christian would tell me they represented the Father – the Son – and Holy Spirit...the Trinity. I asked, why was the one cross higher than the other two? This seemed to always be the case when I saw the symbol. "That's the Cross of Christ that is elevated above the rest", I was told...its because Jesus is the Son of God.

We tend as humans to associate words with images and then over time the ones we deem important actually become a symbol. The symbol through the years is supposed to bring the imagery and the words to the front of our minds so we can **remember the story**.

When I was searching for the TRUTH, no one when I asked why 3 crosses, gave me **the story**, except for the statement that Christ died for my sins. That statement at first had no relevance for me because I had no understanding of sin or my need for a savior. I did not understand the HOLINESS of GOD or the abject wretchedness of mankind. And I had no concept of the Trinity.

My point is that when witnessing to others who have no understanding of **the story**; the words we choose have more meaning to us than to them. We often feel good about what we say whether it gets the point across or not. As long as we use key Christian phrases we rationalize that the Holy Spirit can use them to save a person and we have completed our mission.

But understand that you have a responsibility to give out quality seed that can take root. Do you remember the parable of the 4 seeds in Matthew 13: 18-23? The first seed had no quality within it.

Matthew 13:18:

" Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and **does not understand it**, *the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart*. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road."

As a SEED Sower you are part of the battle with the evil one. People must have an understanding of what we are talking about, they need the word of God planted into them with understanding so the Holy Spirit has something to work with. When speaking on behalf of Jesus you have a responsibility to prepare well so your seeds do not fall beside the road and perish.

So you must plant the very best seeds you can so they will take root and grow. It has taken almost 23 years for the Crucifixion to impact my mind, my heart and my soul. Every time I approach the Cross and read **the story** more light comes into my soul. So again I ask you "**Why 3 Crosses**", since when we think about Jesus we only see and recognize the one cross.

We see the one cross because we understand that Jesus came and died on that Cross-for each of us. We think of His Deity but somehow forget His humanity. Come with me back in time as we look at the reality of this Symbol of **3 crosses** that echo's throughout time saying to each of us...**remember the story**.

The Cross-was anchored into the ground of Mt. Moriah. The term means Chosen of Jehovah. The very ground upon which the Cross-was anchored was pre-destined by God for a HOLY purpose.

It was here one thousand years after Abraham that King David built an altar and offered sacrifices to God. Those sacrifices were a portrait of the death of the innocent for the guilty and the one who would come to make the once for all ultimate sacrifice for the sins of every one past, present and future.

It was here that King Solomon's temple was built, on the spot that had been the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite. A threshing floor was where the wheat and the chaff were separated. The wheat would be taken into the granary and the chaff to be dispersed forever by the wind. This is another portrait of Christ who one day will separate believers from non-believers.

It was two thousand years later, on the very same mount; the Son of God would offer Himself as the final sacrifice for sin.

Notice as we approach HIS Cross. It is not higher than the rest on the road as we approach HIM. The two flanking crosses are at the same height as HIS. If we did not know it was HIM, we would have walked by not noticing HIS Cross. The only thing that was different was the sign over HIS head that read...

“This IS the KING of the JEWS.” Luke 23:38.

Jesus looked like every other Jew hanging on a cross along the road. There was nothing unique about HIM visually. It was the words that He spoke that drew attention and the miracles that He did that gave HIM credibility. But here on the Cross-he did not stand out for He came to die as one of us...so He blended in.

If you did not know **the story** you would not know that God was hanging there before you. What of the two Crosses on either side? They remind us that we have a choice to make. For the one thief accepted Christ and went to be with Christ in Heaven; while the other went to hell condemned by the original sin he carried to his death. Scripture makes it clear...there is a Heaven and a Hell.

The Judgment...Matthew 35: 31-41...

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on **His right**, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"Then He will also say to those on **His left**, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

Have you given any thought to the two Crosses, one on His right hand and one on his left? Like me you probably don't pay much attention to the two thieves. But please understand that the two crosses only have meaning when there is one in the middle. And the one in the middle only has meaning when flanked by the two, because Jesus came to earth to die for both thieves. But like them, He gives you the choice of accepting His gift of death that brings you eternal life; or His gift of life that brings you eternal death...for you will never die.

There is yet another person in this story who benefited from the death of Christ. His name is Barabbas. His name means Son of Abbas. This day the Son of Abbas would be spared because another Father would **not spare His Only Son** but instead let HIM die.

Barabbas was to die on the same Cross that Christ died upon. Instead Barabbas was set free from his jail cell. Jesus took his place on that cross; the innocent was to die for the guilty. A sacrifice planned before time in eternity past.

THE SACRIFICE that would end Gods sacrificial system of Old Testament prophetic portraits of the coming "Seed of the Woman" of whom God wrote in Genesis 3:15; Gods coming Redeemer, Messiah – the Christ...Jesus the Son of the Living God.

Barabbas was fortunate that day because he was given another chance at life and freedom. Every day of life is a gift filled with Gods Mercy and Grace to those who do not know His Son as Savior and Lord.

We like Barabbas go free to live our lives while we have breath. Most ignore the Cross of Christ their entire lives; and they do that at extreme peril because they could die at any moment without accepting Christ as Savior and Lord and then find themselves in a crowd looking at Christ standing before His Throne...facing them.

At first they will feel safe and comfortable among the many surrounding them. They will look at Christ before them and make the mistake of seeing what they thought to be His right hand facing them, was really is HIS left hand...and they will hear "Depart from Me...".

So you see there is a lot to **this story** to tell. The better you know it, and the more familiar you are with its intimate details, the greater the quality of the seeds will be that you plant...giving the Holy Spirit more to work with to reach those you love and others God brings to you.

Luke 10:2...

And he said to them, "The **harvest** is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the **harvest** to send out laborers into his **harvest**."

The Gospel and the harvest are tied together with words. It is the quality of your words that will have a direct impact on the harvest. So when you explain the importance of the Cross of Christ to someone make sure you tell them the rest of **the story**...

"Why there are 3 Crosses".

One last thought to leave with you this Easter. When I became a believer in Jesus I recognized HIM on the Cross and accepted His death in exchange for mine.

Later I understood that in order to be HIS Follower I needed to take up my own Cross in this life filled with storms. Then, as I looked at the **3 Crosses** I saw myself on the Cross next to HIM.

In Matthew 11:29-30 Jesus says to us ...

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls...

...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

When I finally understood that He said that to me, I realized I am never alone and He is with me always, even to the end of the age.

So now when I see the **3 Crosses** I see myself there in the center held tightly in the arms of Jesus. I have become part of **HIS Cross** and I no longer carry mine.

He ... knew my name !

He... knew my story !

I ... was on His mind when He Died !

He IS RISEN !

...Remember and Share The Story ! ! !

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