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"... And They Crucified Him"

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INT: QUESTION: Why did those people at Jerusalem crucify Jesus?

I. THE CONDITION OF MAN WHEN JESUS CAME.
A. Isaiah 64:6. Righteousness as filthy rags.
C. Forgot Prov. 14:12. There is a way...
D. Forgot Jeremiah 10:23. O Lord, I know that the

II. WHAT MAN NEEDED AND GOD GAVE.
B. Romans 5:8-11. Here is what man needed:
CONDITION: Within man's reach: Salvation, help to escape sin and eternal hope in Jesus.

III. WHAT MAN DID TO JESUS IN RETURN.
A. His own race rejected Him. J. 1:11.
   Nazareth, Jerusalem, Galilee, Samaria, Judea!!
C. Ever put yourself back there? See the event?
   Feel the horror? Die the death? Give thanks?

Then, let's go back and share His crucifixion:
"EVERYTHING was now ready for the journey to the Hill of Golgotha. Two Roman soldiers had the heavy cross. Another soldier had three crude spikes. Two shorter and one long one. He also carried a heavy iron-maul.
Another soldier had cruelly painted the sign of mockery. It read: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

Was Jesus ready for the trip to Golgotha? To look at Him made sensitive men weep. He was bruised from the beating with the reed. The dry spittle had crusted on His cheeks. Small trickles of blood had run down His forehead and dried---from the thorny crown--pressed thereon.

Jesus was only half-alive or less. The scourgings were so terrible that many men died before the trip to the cross.
Sure enough, Jesus could not carry His cross alone. "And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; him they compelled to bear His cross."

The journey from the Pretorium was down hill less than a block, then turned westward and ascended up the Tyropean Valley toward the highest peak of land around the city. This high place was chosen for crucifixion so all men might see the penalty for law-breaking and desist!!

As the procession moved nearer to Golgotha Jesus had to stop several times, take a deep breath in the blazing sun and start again. They finally reached the top of Golgotha Hill.

By now, many people were there: Roman soldiers; Jewish authorities; curiosity seekers; a band of sobbing-women; Mary, Jesus's brothers and sisters and the executioners.

One soldier offered Jesus a drink—"vinegar, mingled with gall: and when He had tasted thereof, He would not drink."

It was high noon now and there were no clouds to shield Jesus' aching body from the burning sun.

The three prisoners were stripped now of all their garments but their inner loin-cloth. The executioner laid the crossbeam behind Jesus, and the Roman soldiers jerked Him backward and down on the wood—pressing his blood-caked back upon the splintery wood.

Crucifixion had begun. The executioner took a 4" nail from his apron and knelt beside Jesus' right arm. Two soldiers pinned His shoulders firmly against the cross. Then a soldier placed his knee on the inside of Jesus's elbow to paralyze the hand for the blow to come.

When the soldier found the right place for the point of his nail, he took careful aim with his maul. Jesus turned His head.
"...And they Crucified Him." #3

An involuntary cry escaped Jesus' lips as the nail passed through His flesh and into the wood below. One more---heavy blow---and the hand was secure.

Quickly, the executioner jumped across the body to the other hand. In like manner he pinned it to the cross in two skillful strokes.

The harder job was yet to come. The soldiers never relished the task of pinning two feet to the cross with one spike. The right foot was usually nailed over the left. Why, the nail in the feet? Because the Romans had learned long before that with the feet not pinned to the cross, the condemned man could stretch himself upward and breathe easier. But this way, without the support of the feet, the body sagged heavily, closing off the lungs and virtually suffocating the victim. Three well-placed blows finished the job. JESUS WAS FIRMLY PINNED TO THE CROSS.

The lifting job came next. Soldiers stood at each hand and started the lift. Another joined them as soon as Jesus' body reached waist high. A forth soldier guided the base of the cross toward the hole which had been chiseled in the skull-like rock.

As the cross arose, Jesus' body shifted and the full tension began to be felt in His hands. Pain and agony--like burning lightning flashed thru his arms. His vision blurred. His head throbbed, and His dry-throat tried to swallow, but He could not. He said, "I thirst!"

The base of the cross moved slowly toward the hole in the rock and finally with a jarring THUD! settled in its place. Two blocks of wood were driven into the hole to steady the cross. Now the cross would not move; and Jesus could not move.

The world had crucified her Savior! Mankind had sinned his GREATEST SIN. God's Son was repaid for His love with a Cross!!

Isaiah 53:3-6.

* I Cor. 15:1-11. What does it all mean? It means at least three things:
1. If you are not a Christian.......  
   you can be **SAVED** because Jesus died for **YOU**.  
   your sins can still be removed by His **blood**.  
   you can be free---happy and hopeful  
   because Jesus hung on the cross for **YOU**.  
   *Acts 2:28.*

2. You **can crucify Jesus AGAIN** if you do  
   do **not live faithfully each day**.  
   You **HAVE crucified Jesus afresh** if  
   you **have not lived RIGHT**.....(repeat).  

3. Since Jesus **DIED** for you, the least you  
   can do is **BE IDENTIFIED** with a local  
   group of Christ's disciples and **LIVE**,  
   and **WORK** for Him!!!

   If you are subject to the gospel  
   in any way, please come during  
   our invitation song.