

SERMON NOTES

MARCH 16, 2008

“The Drama of the Cross”

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Introduction - the setting and “actors” surrounding Jesus at His death

Text - Luke 23:26-49

Main Idea - The account of the crucifixion does not detail Jesus’ physical sufferings but the various “players” associated with it. What point is Luke making? Who are the people he highlights? Who do they represent?

Bridge to understanding Luke’s description

Five elements of the theory of Greek tragedy - Imitation, Language, Purification, Tragic Hero, Plot

I. The Women - loss of dreams - who can make sense?

A. As weeping followers

B. As witnessing faithful

Jesus’ response - Be prepared

II. The Soldiers - loss of direction - what’s really happening?

A. Who prosecute the Innocent One

B. Who praise the Righteous One

Jesus’ response - Be forgiven...the first worshippers

III. The Criminals - loss of destiny - who can help us now?

A. Contrast in sensitivities - the one who saw past his pain

B. Contrast in destinies - the one who was converted

Jesus’ response - Receive comfort

IV. The Rulers - loss of determination - who’s really in charge?

A. Their assault

B. Jesus’ authority

Jesus’ response - Recognize my authority

Conclusion - How will I respond to Jesus?