

MARK 15:21-27

GOD AND MAN

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. ²⁵ It was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷ They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The citizens of this world are forced to carry the cross. The citizens of the kingdom take up the cross. The men of the world drink away their sorrows. The men of the kingdom drink from the cup of sorrows. Worldly people are interested in what they can get. Kingdom people are interested in whose they are. The kings of this world die surrounded by courtesans. God died surrounded by sinners.

As we read in the Prophet Isaiah:

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:6-9)

The ways of man and the ways of God are before you. Which will it be for you?

Jesus, you have shown me the way. Now, through your Holy Spirit, help me to choose your way. Amen.