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## ANOTHER LOOK AT THE CROSS

**QUOTE:** *The cross represents the greatest dichotomy in the history of the world. What was horribly bad for Jesus, was amazingly good for us!!*

### Two Sides of the Same Cross

#### **Torment and Triumph**

**Luke 23:33 (NKJV)** – *And when they had come to the place called Calvary, **there they CRUCIFIED HIM, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.***

- Such a simple, direct declaration of what happened to Jesus – **“There they Crucified Him.”**
- “excruciating” comes from two Latin words: ex – “out of” and cruciare – “the cross”.
- But Jesus’s tormenting pain paved the way for our never-ending victory.
- **I Corinthians 15:54 – 57 (NLT)** *Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. **55** O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?” **56** For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. **57** But thank God! He gives us VICTORY over sin and death **THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST***

#### **Rejection and Redemption**

**Mark 15:34 (NKJV)** - *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

- **Isaiah 53:6 (MSG)** – *We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, **ON HIM, ON HIM.***
- The Father turned His back on Jesus for 3 days, so He would NEVER have to turn His back on us.
- **I Peter 3:18 (MSG)** – *That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all - was put to death and then made alive – **TO BRING US TO GOD.***
- **QUOTE:** *Jesus breathed His last breath feeling REJECTED. Today, God wants you to take your first breath feeling REDEEMED.*

#### **Defeat and Defining Moment**

- The cross represents the place where all of hell thought that they had defeated God once and for all.
- But when Sunday morning rolled around and Jesus was ALIVE AGAIN, that defeat turned into their DEFINING MOMENT.

**A** – I **ALREADY** have an existing relationship with Jesus as My Lord

**B** – I'm ready to **BEGIN** a relationship with Jesus today.

**C** – I need more time to **CONSIDER** this decision

**D** – I **DON'T** ever plan to make that decision.