

People at the Foot of the Cross

Eighteen people, groups and entities at the foot of the Cross. A topic for profound, prayerful meditation on Good Friday

1. Mother Mary and St. John (Mary becomes mother of all disciples)

- John 19:25–27 "But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother ... When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved [John] standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home."

2. Holy Women (Mary's, Joanna, Salome)

- Matthew 27:55–56 "There were also many women there, looking on from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him; among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee."
- John 19:25 "So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."
- Luke 23:49 "And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things."

3. Taunting Jews

- Luke 23:35 "And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"
- Matthew 27:46–49 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?" that is, "My God, my God, why

hast thou forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah." ... But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

4. Believing Jews and Acquaintances

- Luke 23:48 "And all the multitudes who assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts."
- Luke 23:49 "And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things."

5. Simon the Cyrene

- Through contact with Jesus and his Cross he became a believer along with his famous sons: Rufous and Alexander
- Matthew 27:32 "As they went out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry his cross."
- Mark 15:21 "And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross."
- Romans 16:13 "Greet Rufus, eminent in the Lord, also his mother and mine."

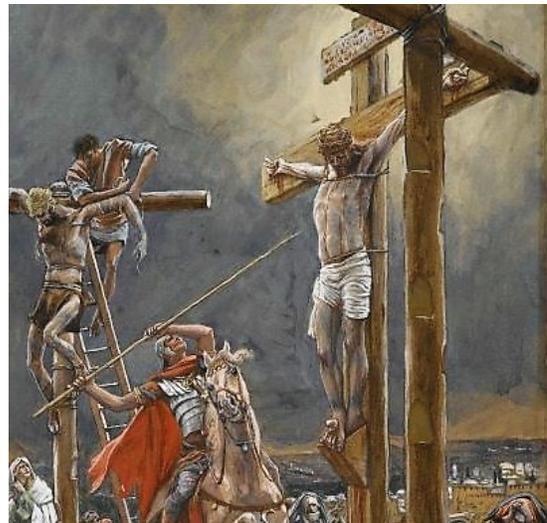


6. Centurion and soldiers (Story of conversion)

- Luke 23:36–37 "The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
- Matthew 27:54 "When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

7. St. Loginus (and his lance)

- John 19:34 "But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water."



- Loginus: The name traditionally given to the soldier who pierced the side of Christ with his spear. It can be traced back to the apocryphal 'Acts of *Pilate', one version of which also gives it to the centurion who, standing by the Cross, confessed Christ as the Son of God. In the later forms of the legend the two persons are often confused. *Bede, who is followed by many medieval authors, among them the author of the *Golden Legend, reports that he was martyred for his faith at Caesarea in Cappadocia in AD 58 and gives as his feast, which occurs in several old martyrologies, 15 Mar. In the East his feast is observed on 16 Oct.

8. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea (Story of conversion for members of Sanhedrin)

- John 19:38–42 "After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might

take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

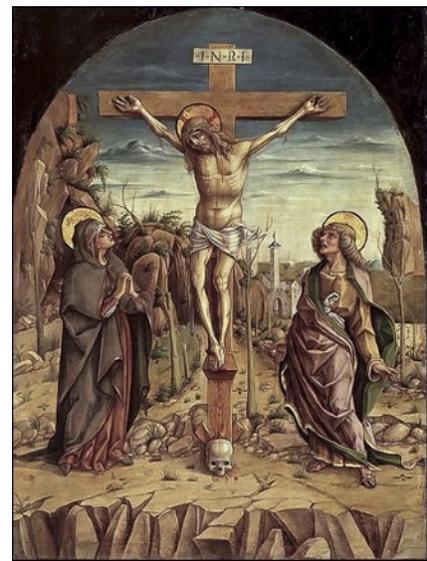
- (See progress of Nicodemus' conversion: John 3:1-21, 7:50-52)
- Matthew 27:57–60 "When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed.

9. Two thieves (what was the gospel the Good Thief Dismus believed?)

- Luke 23:39–43 "One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

10. Adam's Skull

- Pious tradition that the skull of the 1st Adam was beneath the cross; the blood of the 2nd Adam dripped upon the skull of the 1st Adam for his redemption.



- Chapel of Adam below Calvary in Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

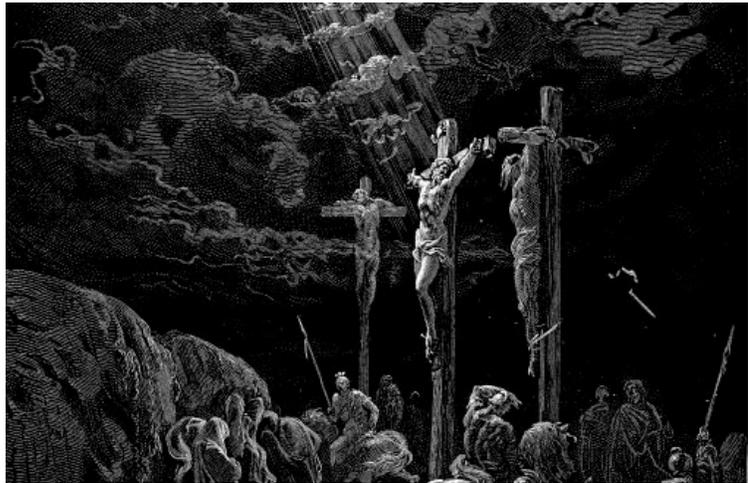
11. The Father and the Holy Spirit

12. Satan and the Evil Spirits

- 1 Corinthians 2:8 “None of the rulers of this age [Satan and his minions] understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
- 1 John 3:8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

13. Nature

- It rebelled against it’s Creator on the Cross
- Matthew 27:51 “And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.”
- Luke 23:44 “It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”



14. Corpses

- Matthew 27:52–53 “The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the

tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

15. Temple

- Mark 15:37–38 “And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. (See Matt 27:51)



- The Temple was only a short walk away and stood waiting for the “new Temple (Jn 2:19-21). The Holy of Holies was now open to us (Hebrews 10:19-22).

16. You and I

- Rembrandt’s self portrait with painters beret "Raising of the Cross" — notice the Dutch painter’s beret. It was *our* sin that put him on the cross, we were there to raise the cross! Notice the centurion handing you the sword handle first. He is telling you to take the sword and pierce his side.

