

BIBLE VERSE OF THE DAY - MATTHEW 27:54

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God".

New International Version [NIV]

EXPLANATION

The Romans were known for their brutality towards people, especially those who were criminals – it was their job, they were professionals. The centurion would have seen hundreds of people die in this way, yet here he is saying 'Surely he was the Son of God'. For the centurion there was something about this death, this man that was different to all the others. So what might have led him to this?

1. Jesus' response to the roman soldiers and His own countrymen. His response in the garden was calm (Matthew 26:55-56) and He even healed a soldier's ear in the middle of the arrest. Yet they carried on mocking Him and beating Him (Matthew 27:27-31).
2. Jesus' mercy towards the mob including the centurion himself (Luke 23:34). He asks God to forgive them for what they did. Again, all this while they continue to mock Him and gamble for His few possessions (Matt 27:35-36).
3. Creation's response. An earthquake, dark skies, the ripped curtain in the temple, all happening as Jesus hung there and eventually died – unprecedented supernatural events.

QUOTE OF THE DAY - BILLY GRAHAM

From the cross of Christ, God declares "I Love You!"

REFLECTION & CHALLENGE

The death of Jesus changed the centurion forever - what about you? What's your response to Jesus' death?

- Take some time to read Matthew 27 again. What stands out for you? Write down what you feel God might be saying to you.
- Take some time to reflect when maybe we have mocked Jesus - ask for forgiveness and know that, through the cross, we are forgiven.
- We have looked at Barabbas, the Roman Soldier, Pilate's wife and Peter this week. How has God changed you through these five accounts? Make something which you can come back to based on these things.

Resource content by Aaron Smith (with adaptations from Our Daily Bread resource)