

“Truly This Was the Son of God!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39

B. “The centurion said, ‘Truly this man was the Son of God.’ The conduct of Jesus upon the cross and the disturbances of nature which accompanied his death (Matt. 27:51-52), convinced the centurion that Jesus was a righteous man. But knowing that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, and this claim was the real cause for which the Jews were crucifying him, he concludes, since he concedes that Jesus is righteous, that he is also all that he professed to be--the Son of God. There is no just reason for minimizing his confession, as though he had said, “A son of the gods”; for he said nothing of that kind, and those err as to the use of Scriptural language who think so. Like the centurions of Capernaum (Matt. 8:10) and Caesarea (Acts 10:1-2), this Roman surpassed in faith those who had better opportunities. But in this faith he was not alone.” (*J. W. McGarvey, The Fourfold-Fold Gospel*)

C. “Now, when the centurion...” That was over the band of soldiers, that mocked Christ in Pilate’s hall, and who was particularly over the guard of soldiers, set about the cross of Christ.

1. “And they that were with him, watching Jesus...” The soldiers that were with him, who were set to watch the cross of Christ, lest he should come down, or any should take him down from thence.”
2. “Saw the earthquake, and those things that were done...” And besides that, the darkening of the sun, the rending of the rocks, and particularly heard with what a loud voice Christ spoke, and then at once expired.
3. “They feared greatly...” Not with a true godly fear, but with a fear of punishment; lest divine vengeance should light on them, for their concern in this matter.”
4. “Saying, truly this was the Son of God...” Which they concluded, not from any mediatorial performances, which they were utter strangers to, but from effects of divine power; and which to them showed him to be a divine person, what he said he was, and the Jews charged him with blasphemy, on account of, and condemned him for, as these soldiers might have seen and heard. (*John Gill Commentary*)

I. “WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I AM?”

A. Not everyone in Jesus’ day thought He was a great man. Some thought He was a nobody. Some even thought He was an evil man.

1. A lowly carpenter - Mark 6:3
2. The son of Joseph - John 6:42
3. A sinner - John 9:24
4. Born of illegitimacy - John 8:41
5. A demon - Matt. 12:24
6. Insane - John 10:20
7. The object of contempt - Matt. 27:38-43
8. An embarrassment to His family - John 7:3-5

II. WHO DID JESUS PROVE HIMSELF TO BE?

- A. If a man came claiming to be God and given all authority, how could he convince others of this? Jesus said He is God.
 - 1. John 8:58; Col. 1:17, 2:9; Rev. 1:8
- B. He commanded the physical world. (How could this be done today?)
 - 1. Calmed the stormy sea - Luke 8:24-25
 - 2. Changed water into wine - John 2:7-9
 - 3. Walked on water - Matt. 14:25-27
- C. He had power over spirits and demons. (How could this be done?)
 - 1. Gadarene demoniac - Mark 5:15
 - 2. Destructive spirit - Mark 9:25-27
- D. He healed all diseases, instantaneously. (How can this be done today?)
 - 1. A leper - Matt. 8:2-3
 - 2. A paralyzed servant in great pain - Matt. 8:5-7, 13
 - 3. Peter's mother-in-law and many others - Matt. 8:14-17
- E. He raised the dead. (How can this be done today?)
 - 1. The son of the widow of Nain - Luke 7:14-16
 - 2. Jairus' daughter - Mark 5:22-23, 35, 39-42
 - 3. Lazarus - John 11:37-45
- F. He arose from the dead. (How can this be done today?)
 - 1. John 20:26-28

III. WHO TESTIFIED ON JESUS' BEHALF?

- A. John the Baptist - John 5:32-33
- B. The miracles of Jesus - John 5:36
- C. God the Father - John 5:37
- D. The inspiration of Moses - John 5:46
- E. The apostles who were with Him every day - Matt. 16:13-19

Conclusion:

- A. Mark 15:39 - "So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, 'Truly this Man was the Son of God!'"
- B. You will confess this now in obedience to the Gospel... - Rom. 10:10
- C. Or, you will confess it on Judgment Day; but then, it will be too late - Rev. 1:7