

John 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

Analysis

Where they crucified him (ὅπου αὐτὸν ἐσταύρωσαν/hopou auton estaurōsan)—John states it with stark simplicity, without describing crucifixion's horrors. His readers knew them: scourging that flayed flesh, nails through wrists and feet, slow suffocation, dehydration, exposure, shame. The physical agony was matched by spiritual—bearing sin's curse (Galatians 3:13), experiencing the Father's wrath (Isaiah 53:10), tasting forsakenness (Matthew 27:46).

Two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst (μετ' αὐτοῦ ἄλλους δύο ἐντεῦθεν καὶ ἐντεῦθεν, μέσον δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν/met' autou allous dyo enteuthen kai enteuthen, meson de ton Iēsoun)—Jesus is numbered with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12). Yet even in this, divine irony: the King is enthroned between two subjects, a repentant thief and an unrepentant one (Luke 23:39-43), demonstrating the universal human choice—receive or reject the crucified King.

Historical Context

Crucifixion was Roman execution, not Jewish. Jews stoned blasphemers; Rome crucified rebels and slaves. By demanding crucifixion, the Jewish leaders unwittingly fulfilled Scripture ('hanged on a tree'—Deuteronomy 21:23) and made Jesus's death unmistakably a Roman execution for claiming kingship—the very charge they engineered. The centurion's later confession (Matthew 27:54) shows even pagans recognized what Israel's leaders rejected.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Why might John describe the crucifixion so tersely rather than dwelling on physical details?
2. What does Jesus being 'in the midst' of two criminals reveal about His mission to seek and save the lost?
3. How do the two thieves represent the only two possible responses to the cross?

Interlinear Text

ὅπου αὐτοῦ ἐσταύρωσαν καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ ἄλλους δύο
Where **him** **they crucified** **and** **with** **him** **other** **two**
G3699 G846 G4717 G2532 G3326 G846 G243 G1417

ἐντεῦθεν καὶ ἐντεῦθεν μέσον δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν
G1782 **and** G1782 **in the midst** **and** G3588 **Jesus**
G2532 G3319 G1161 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.