

Mark 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they cried out again, Crucify him.

Analysis

And they cried out again, Crucify him (οἱ δὲ πάλιν ἔκραξαν, Σταύρωσον αὐτόν, hoi de palin ekraxan, Staurōson auton)—The verb κράζω (krazō) means to cry out, shout, scream—a visceral, loud demand. The adverb πάλιν (palin, 'again') suggests they'd already begun shouting this before Pilate's question in v. 12. The imperative σταύρωσον (staurōson, 'crucify!') demanded Rome's most shameful execution method. σταυρόω (stauroō) means to fix to a cross, to crucify.

Crucifixion was reserved for slaves, pirates, insurrectionists—the lowest criminals. For a Jewish crowd to demand this for a fellow Jew shows the depths of manipulation achieved. The cry echoes ironically against Palm Sunday's 'Hosanna!' (11:9-10)—the same city that welcomed Jesus now screams for His blood. The crowd fulfilled unwittingly Psalm 22:16: 'they pierced my hands and feet' and Isaiah 53:12: 'he was numbered with the transgressors.' Human voices demand what divine decree ordained.

Historical Context

Crucifixion (Latin: *crux, crucifixio*) was introduced to the Mediterranean by Persians, adopted by Alexander the Great, and perfected by Romans as public deterrent. Cicero called it 'the most cruel and disgusting penalty' (In Verrem 5.64). The victim died slowly through asphyxiation, exposure, and shock—lasting hours or days. Jewish law considered crucifixion victims cursed: 'he that is hanged is accursed of God' (Deuteronomy 21:23)—which Paul cites to show Christ becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the crowd's demand for crucifixion—Rome's most shameful death—reveal about the completeness of their rejection?
2. How does the cry 'Crucify him!' fulfill Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah's suffering?
3. What spiritual dynamic causes a crowd to go from 'Hosanna!' to 'Crucify him!' in five days?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	πάλιν	ἔκραξαν	Σταύρωσον	αὐτόν
G3588	And	again	they cried out	Crucify	him
G1161	G3825	G2896		G4717	G846

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