

Mark 15:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

Analysis

Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe—The title *ho Christos ho basileus tou Israēl* (ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, the Christ/Messiah, the King of Israel) drips with sarcasm, yet accurately identifies Jesus. Their demand—*idōmen kai pisteusōmen* (ἴδωμεν καὶ πιστεύσωμεν, 'we might see and believe')—echoes perennial unbelief's demand: prove yourself by our terms, then we'll believe.

Jesus already provided countless signs—yet they didn't believe. Their demand for one more 'sign' was disingenuous. True faith believes God's self-revelation, not self-designed tests. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as 'evidence of things not seen.' Jesus descended FROM HEAVEN to save; demanding He descend from the cross reveals they wanted a political deliverer, not a sin-bearer.

They that were crucified with him reviled him—Initially both thieves mocked Jesus (Matthew 27:44), though one later repented (Luke 23:39-43). Even fellow sufferers joined the mockery—the innocent Lamb surrounded entirely by hostile voices.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectations centered on a conquering king who would overthrow Rome and restore Israel's political sovereignty—not a crucified sufferer.

The title 'King of Israel' was deeply political in first-century Palestine. The religious leaders' mockery reflected genuine theological confusion: how could the Messiah die under God's curse (Deuteronomy 21:23)? They couldn't reconcile Jesus' suffering with their eschatological expectations, missing Isaiah 53's clear prophecy of a suffering servant preceding the conquering king.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you see modern culture demanding Jesus prove Himself on their terms before they'll believe?
2. What does the religious leaders' requirement for sight-before-faith reveal about the nature of genuine saving faith?
3. In what areas of your life are you demanding that God prove Himself according to your specifications before you fully trust?

Interlinear Text

ο Χριστὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ καταβάτω νῦν
G3588 Christ G3588 the King G3588 of Israel Let now
G5547 G935 G2474 G2597 G3568

ἀπὸ τοῦ σταυροῦ ἵνα ἴδωμεν καὶ πιστεύσωμεν καὶ οἱ
from G3588 the cross that we may see And believe And G3588
G575 G4716 G2443 G1492 G2532 G4100 G2532

συνεσταυρωμένοι αὐτόν ὠνείδιζον αὐτόν
they that were crucified him reviled him
G4957 G846 G3679 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:44 (Cross): The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

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