

WHY
the CROSS?

Matthew 26:36-46

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.”

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”



Matthew 26:36-46

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?”

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”



Matthew 26:36-46

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.



Matthew 26:36-46

45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”



John 18:1-11

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.



John 18:1-11

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

5 They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am He.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

6 Now when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.



John 18:1-11

7 Then He asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

8 Jesus answered, “I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,”

9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none.”



John 18:1-11

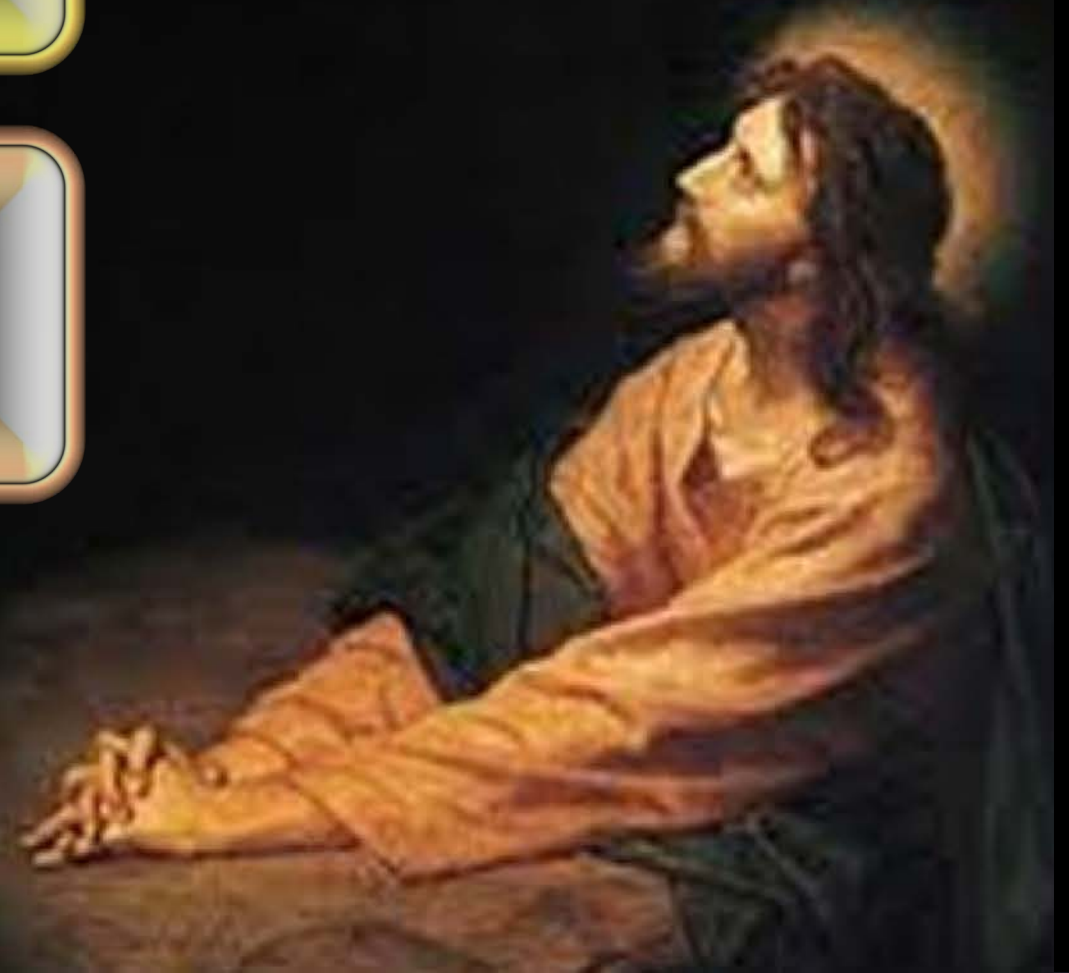
10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"



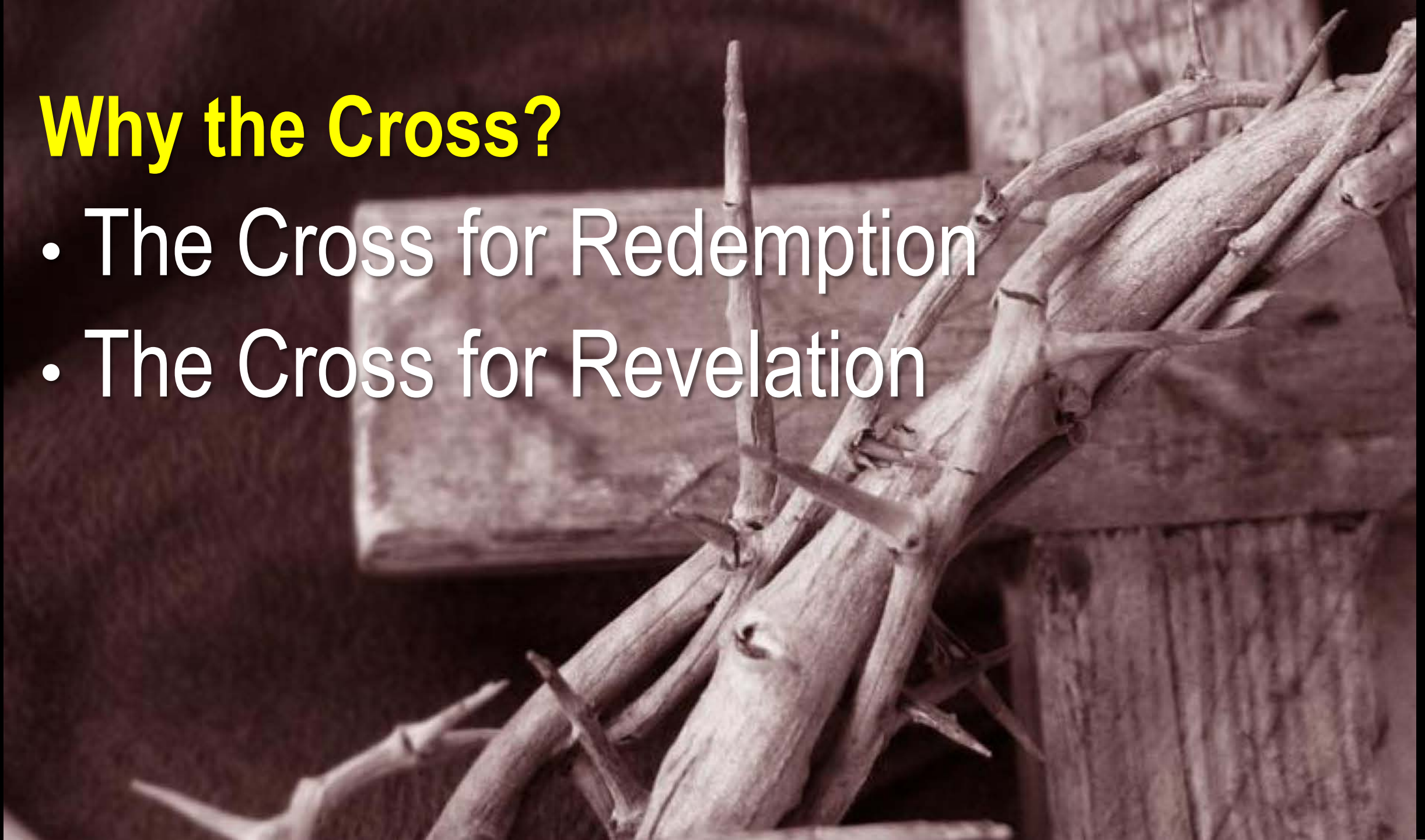
Mark 14:32-52

Luke 22:40-53



Why the Cross?

- The Cross for Redemption
- The Cross for Revelation



The Cross for Redemption

**It saves
and much more**

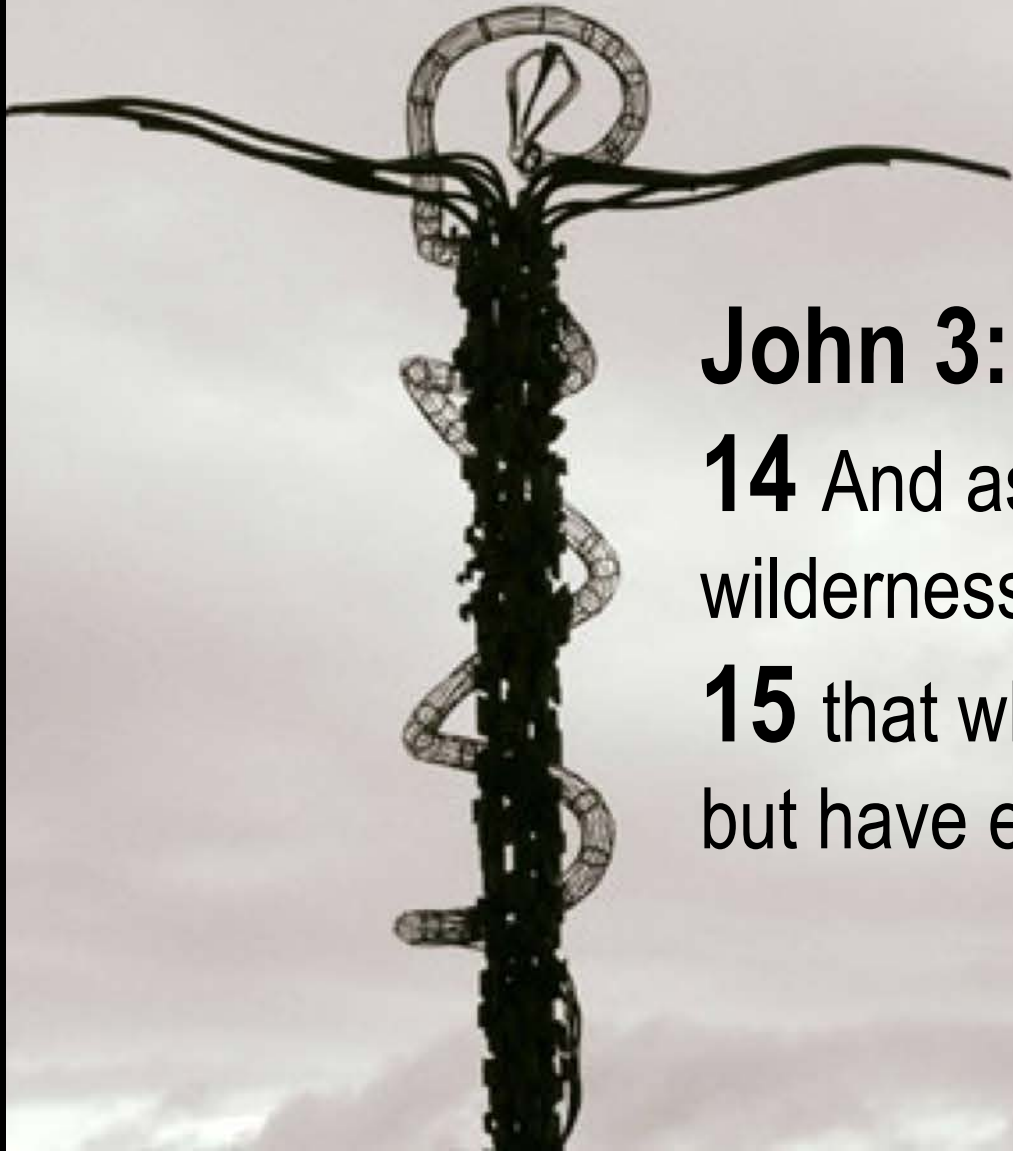


The Cross for Redemption

John 3:14-15

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.



The Cross for Redemption

Numbers 21:6-9

6 So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.



The Cross for Redemption

Numbers 21:6-9

8 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.” **9** So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.



The Cross for Redemption

It gives:

Substitution

Propitiation

Forgiveness

Ransom

Reconciliation

Redemption

Justification





The Cross as a Prism for Revelation

- upon the finished work on the Cross
- the veil in the Temple was torn
- allows us to look into the heart of God

A large wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a light, textured surface covered with a grid of small, faint crosses. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

The Cross reveals God *as a fellow sufferer.*

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

The Cross reveals God *as a fellow sufferer.*



Matthew 26:62-68

62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, “Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?” **63** But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

The Cross reveals God *as a fellow sufferer.*



Matthew 26:62-68

64 Jesus said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” **65** Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!”

The Cross reveals God *as a fellow sufferer.*



Matthew 26:62-68

66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." **67** Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, **68** saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"



The Cross reveals God *as a fellow sufferer.*

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

The Cross reveals

both the vulnerability and power of God.

Luke 23:39-41

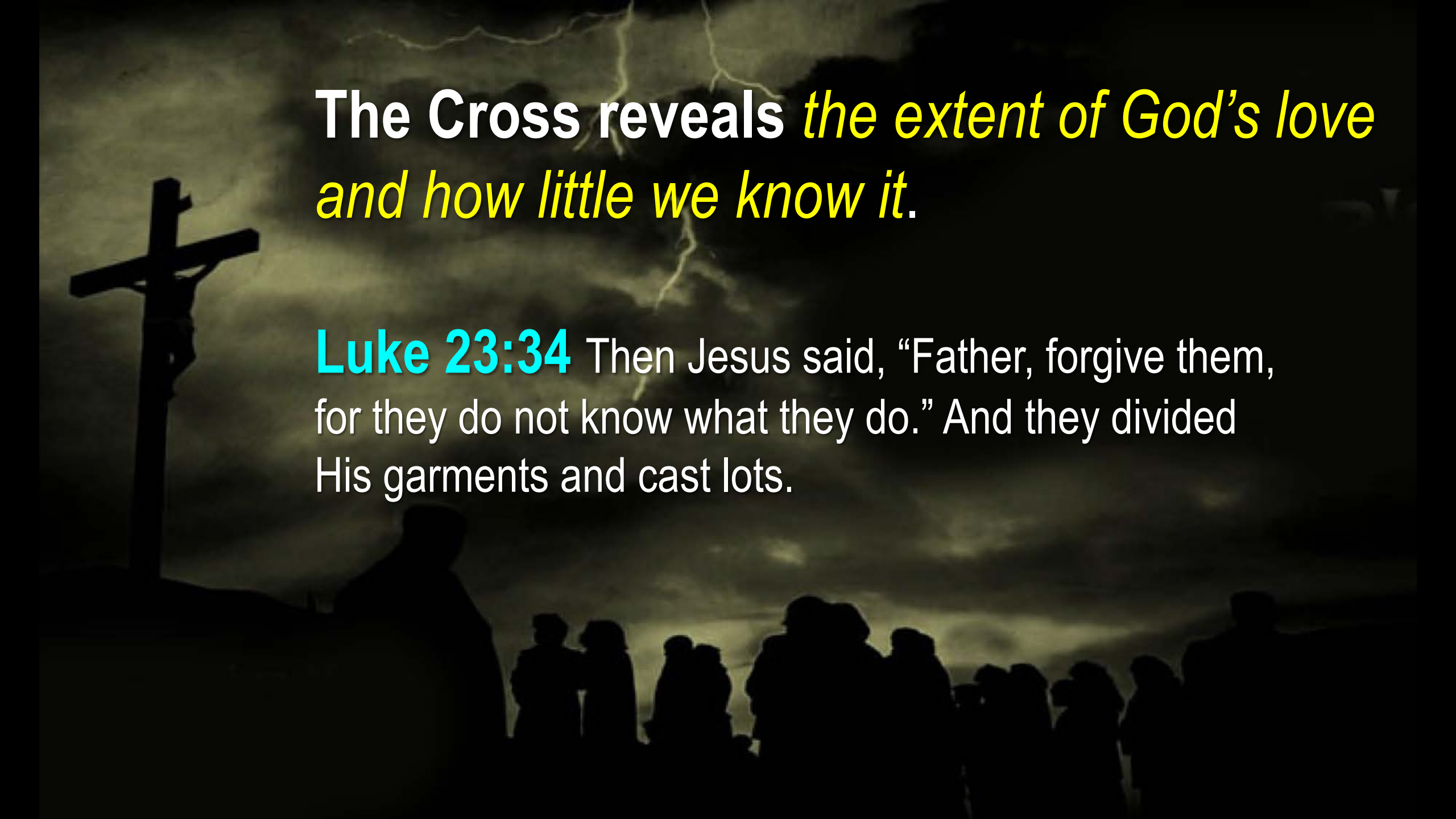
39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” **40** But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

The Cross reveals

both the vulnerability and power of God.

Matthew 27:54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"





The Cross reveals *the extent of God's love
and how little we know it.*

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they do." And they divided
His garments and cast lots.

The Prodigal Son





The Cross reveals *the extent of God's love and how little we know it.*

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

CONCLUSION

John 19:30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine,

He said, “**It is finished!**”

And bowing His head, He gave up
His spirit.

CONCLUSION

Because of the Cross,
I have hope.

The Light of the World





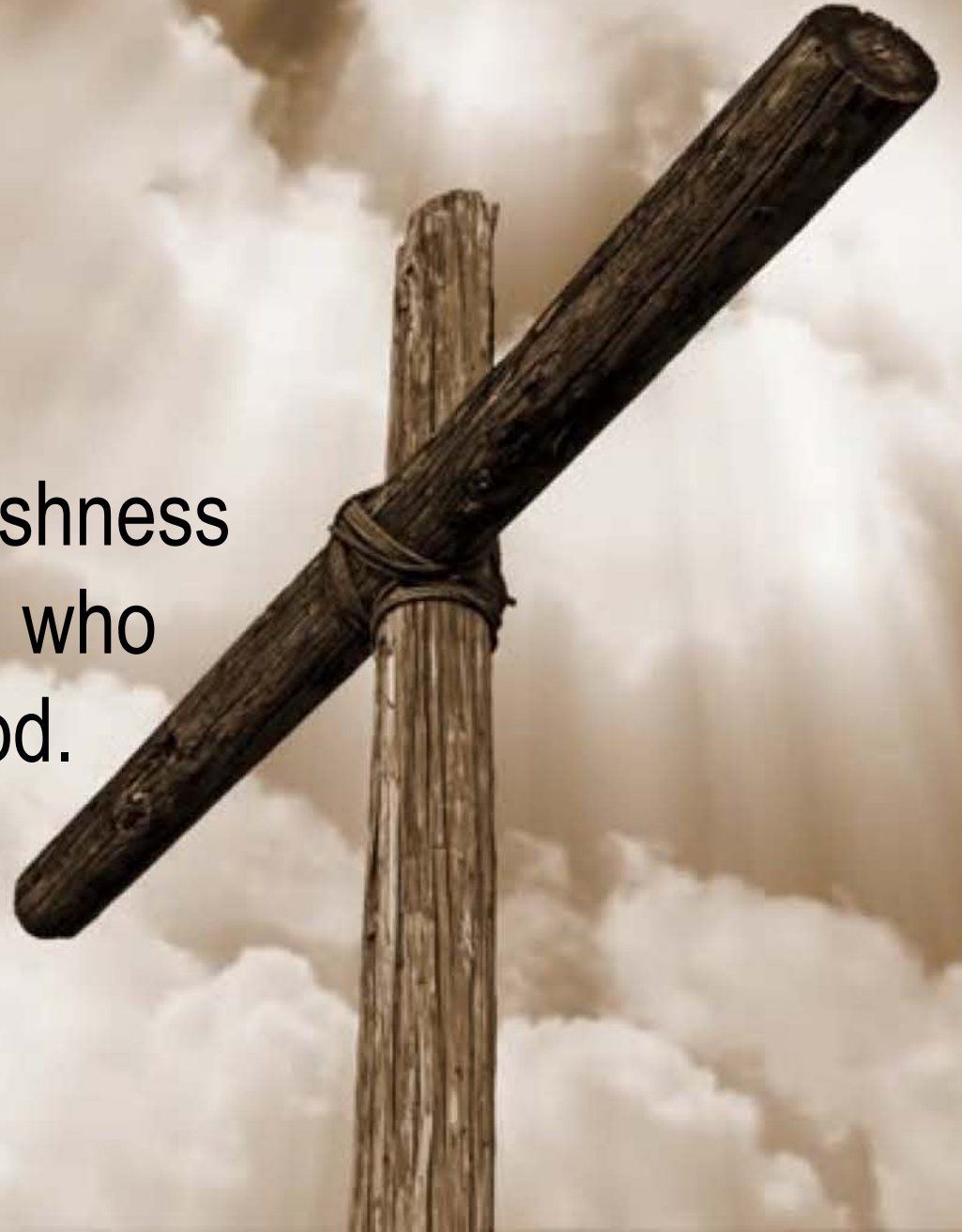
CONCLUSION

**It's Friday, but
Sunday's Comin'**

CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.



CONCLUSION



2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

