

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

By James M. Duncan, Pastor

April 9, 2017

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

JOHN 19:16-27

Most of the time, as we talk about the cross, we picture the terrible-ness of that scene. We speak of the nails being driven into His hand and His feet. That He was there all alone.

But as Jesus hung there, He was not absolutely alone. We are told in the gospels that 4 women were there with Him as we read in John 19:25.

I'm convinced that they were there because they loved Jesus so much that they were willing to risk their lives to be with Him as He hung there upon that cross. I wonder, if you and I had been there, *would we have wanted to be near the cross?*

Well, 4 women were there, and they are a very diverse group. So, let's look at them and learn of their love for Jesus at the foot of the cross.

I. MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

First, there was Mary, the mother of Jesus. We know her story well and learn of their love for Jesus at the foot of the cross.



II. SALOME: SISTER TO MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

John doesn't give her name. He simply tells us that she is the sister of Mary. But both Matthew and Mark make it quite clear that she was Salome, the wife of Zebedee, and the mother of James and John, the apostles of Jesus.

Now, we don't know a whole lot about Salome. But there is one brief event in the 20th chapter of the gospel of Matthew that shows that she once received from Jesus a very definite and stern rebuff.

III. Mary the wife of Clopas

Little is known of *Mary the wife of Clopas*. She was the “other Mary” who kept a vigil at Jesus' tomb with Mary Magdalene (*Matt. 27:61*) and was one of the women who went to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection (*Matt. 28:1*).

IV. MARY MAGDALENE

Her name is familiar to us, but we don't know very much about her. Yet what we do know tells us a lot. We know that she was a follower of Jesus, and that on resurrection morning she was at His tomb long before any of the apostles Mark 16:9.

If you stand close enough to that cross, it'll change you. That's the reason I asked at the very beginning of this message, “Are you sure you want to stand there?” If there is any decision at all in your heart that you need to make, will you come as we stand and as we sing # 65 “Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross”

As our Deacons come to serve the Lord's Supper, we do this in “Remembrance Of Him”. The “bread” is a symbol of His *broken body* and the “*fruit of the vine*” is a symbol of *His Precious Blood that was shed for the sins of all mankind.*