

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Death of Jesus

³²On the way they met a man from Cyrene called Simon, and forced him to carry the cross of Jesus. ³³When they reached the place called Golgotha (or Calvary) which means *the Skull*, ³⁴they offered him wine mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it but would not take it.

³⁵There they crucified him and divided his clothes among themselves, casting lots to decide what each should take. ³⁶Then they sat down to guard him. ³⁷The statement of his offense was displayed above his head and it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' ³⁹People passing by shook their heads and insulted him, ⁴⁰saying:

—Aha! So you will destroy the Temple and build it up again in three days. Now save yourself and come down from the cross, if you are Son of God.

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the Elders and the teachers of the Law mocked him. ⁴²They said:

—The man who saved others cannot save himself. Let the King of Israel now come down from his cross and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusted in God; let God rescue him if God wants to, since he himself said: I am the Son of God.

⁴⁴Even the robbers who were crucified with him insulted him.

⁴⁵From midday darkness fell over the whole land until mid-afternoon. ⁴⁶At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, '*Eloi, Eloi, lamma Sabbachani?*' which means: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? ⁴⁷As soon as they heard this, some of the bystanders said:

—He is calling for Elijah.

⁵⁴The captain and the soldiers who guarded Jesus were greatly terrified when they saw the earthquake and all that had happened, and said:

—Truly, this man was a Son of God.

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