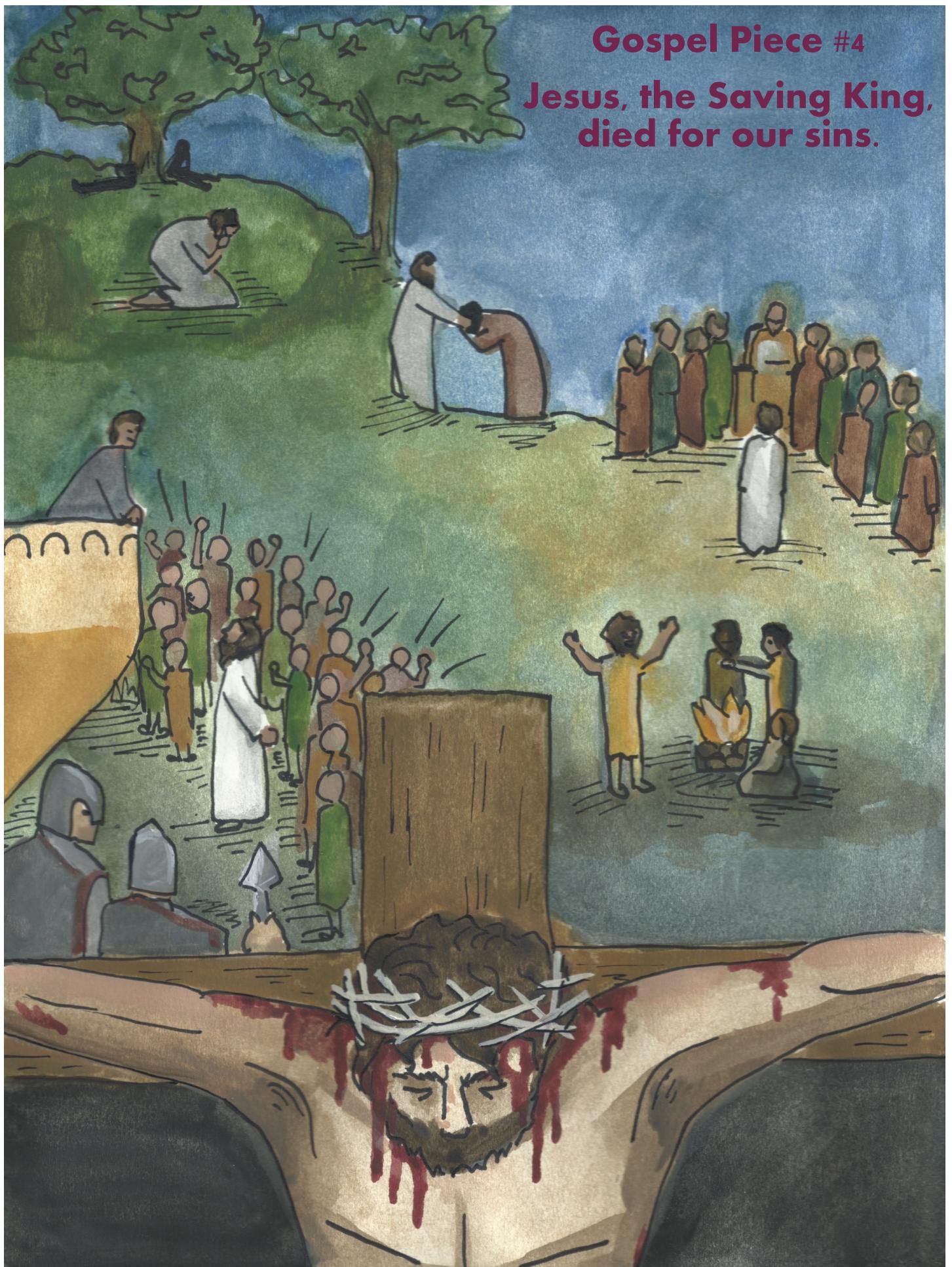


Gospel Piece #4
**Jesus, the Saving King,
died for our sins.**





BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: OUT OF THE JAWS

Last week Richard Wilbanks made news for wrestling his puppy Gunner out of the jaws of an alligator. Richard was unscathed. Jesus didn't just wrestle us out of the jaws of death, he stepped into those jaws. Today we'll focus on his death for our sins, an act predicted in the Old Testament 1,000 years before it happened. Give God worth by reading the verses below and marveling at how the death of Jesus was according to God's predetermined plan.



INTO THE JAWS FOR US

Psa. 22:13 *they open wide their mouths at me,*

A prophecy of an innocent sufferer in 1000 BC.

The prophecy fulfilled by Jesus 1,000 years later.

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 1. Garments | Psa. 22:18 <i>they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.</i> | John 19:23-24a <i>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless...so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be."</i> |
| 2. Wagging | Psa. 22:7 <i>All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;</i> | Mark 15:29 <i>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,</i> |
| 3. Trust | Psa. 22:8 <i>"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"</i> | Matt. 27:43 <i>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"</i> |
| 4. Forsaken | Psa. 22:1 <i>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?</i> | Mark 15:34 <i>And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"</i> |
| 5. Completion | Psa. 22:31 <i>they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.</i> | John 19:30 <i>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.</i> |

What comes up? What thoughts? How does this shake you? Maybe you're numb and don't feel much at all. Talk to the Lord about whatever rises to the surface as you read these Scriptures in both columns.

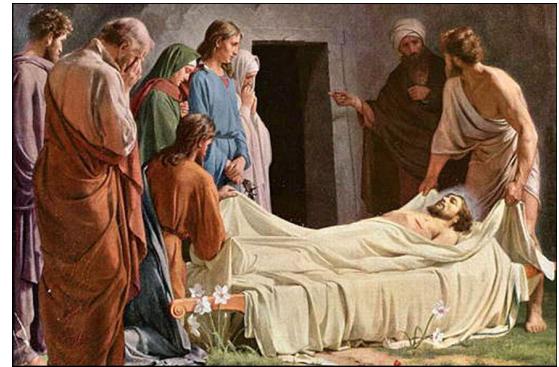
BETWEEN 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: JESUS DIDN'T JUST SWOON

The gospel is history before it's help. It's based upon facts. Some have put forward the "Swoon Hypothesis," that theory that Jesus survived the crucifixion. As one scholar has said, "everything is possible but not everything is reasonable." Here's one argument against this hypothesis by a renowned criminologist and believer.



The disciples' prolonged exposure to Jesus' dead body.

Mark 15:43-46a Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb...



Consider the analysis of J. Warner Wallace, a homicide detective and Christian apologist:

"But stop and think about it for a minute. The disciples had to remove the nails, collect the body, carry it some distance to the tomb, treat the body thoroughly with the customary ointments and spices used in such situations, wrap the body and then place it in the tomb. While we can read through this process in minutes, it takes a lot longer to actually complete. Surely the disciples were also deeply grieved by the death of Jesus. In all this extended contact with his body, do we really think they wouldn't do everything possible to prove to themselves that he wasn't really dead? In all of this time, is it reasonable to believe that they wouldn't have noticed the three inconvenient properties of dead bodies? I've been around enough dead people to recognize that properties that appear when a heart stops beating:

Loss of Temperature

When the heart stops pumping, the body begins to cool. In the time it would take to prepare Jesus for the tomb, the disciples would certainly have observed this feature of death.

Rigidity

When blood is not circulating, the body begins to stiffen. Dead bodies begin to feel and behave differently than unconscious bodies with a beating heart.

Lividify

Gravity begins to act on un-circulating blood. As blood settles in those extremities that are closest to the ground, discoloration is notable.

In all the time it took to prepare Jesus' body, with all the extended contact the disciples had, is it really reasonable to think they would not have repeatedly checked to see if he was still breathing and that they would not have noticed the three inconvenient properties of dead people?" This excerpt and more is available at <https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/how-do-we-know-that-jesus-really-died/>

Our faith is true history before it's terrific news. The gospel demands that we base our lives and choices on actual historical events, not fairytales. Praise him that our worldview and discipleship is based on firm evidence.

BETWEEN 12:00 PM-3:00 PM UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE TRUE EVENTS IN THE ART PIECE ON P.1

Look back at page 1, Kierra's depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus. Notice the progression of agonizing events that were all part of God's plan. Here are the Scriptures to help you identify each happening. Write them on the line:

1. Top left — a man on his knees covering his face (Matt. 26:36-46): _____
2. Top middle — a man touching the side of another man's head (Matt. 26:47-56): _____
3. Top right — a man standing in front of a group of people (Matt. 26:57-68): _____
4. Middle left — a man standing with his hands behind his back (Matt. 27:11-36): _____
5. Middle right — a man with his arms raised high near a fire (Matt. 26:69-75): _____
6. Bottom center — a crowned man, suffering (Matt. 27:27-55): _____

BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM: Join the **Joel Moment Prayer Gathering.** Go to Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID and Password.



SIULIN TAY [She'll share about her confidence in Jesus Christ and a little about her journey with him.]

1Cor. 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

1Cor. 1:27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

1Cor. 1:28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

1Cor. 1:29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

1Cor. 1:30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1Cor. 1:31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

JAIME BURNETT [Why Jesus' death for sin is an essential element of the gospel, despite its "uncivility."]

1Cor. 15:1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,

1Cor. 15:2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

1Cor. 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,



GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.): **Acts 5:30** "... *Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree... God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

Let's start our group prayer time with gratitude for this vicious but critical gospel action, that God's preexistent Son was sent and embodied to be impaled on wood and bear our sin away. Take turns elevating him with praise.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.): **1 Tim. 6:10** "*fight...fight...*"

Ask the God of Angel Armies to set our fellow believers on fire to fight the good fight and to spread the gospel.

GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.): **Mark 11:23** "*whoever says to this mountain..."*

Pray about the "mountains" that never budge. What long-term requests still haven't been answered?

BETWEEN 5:00 PM-10:00 PM: Thank you, Pastor Paul Barton, for teaching rowdy high schoolers "WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS."

I [Darren] belonged to the youth choir at Twin Lakes Church in Aptos in the late 1980s. Our choir director was Pastor Paul Barton, a wonderful man and musician. He had served at TLC for a zillion years at that point in partnership with Pastor Roy Kraft. His faith was as strong as ever. Anyway, as I've shared before, I wasn't particularly spiritually tuned in at this time of my life. I pretty much went to church for the social benefits. I had heard many good sermons, but they bounced off me.

However, when a sermon couldn't penetrate my heart, a song did. During rehearsal for a week-long choir tour in the Spring of 1986, Pastor Paul taught us "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." I was amazed at Pastor Paul's tenderness for the Christ who is honored in this song. He told us in no uncertain terms that we couldn't sing this hymn in a casual, nonchalant manner. He said, "Before we sing it, I'm going to explain it." And he did. I'll never forget the look on his face as he went through the hymn, line by line. Once our now-quiet group of teens understood the words, we sang it in the right spirit. I've never forgotten that day, nor the song. I was humbled because I understood in a fresh way that "Love so amazing, so divine." Let's make "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" our evening prayer.

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.