

One Who Jesus Could Not Save

John. 3:16; John 6: 37; Heb. 7: 25; Matt. 27:42

“He saved others, himself he could not save...”

This is the language of the priests and scribes, and elders respecting Jesus, when he was expiring upon the cross. Judea had been filled with the signs of his Messiah ship - the evidence of divinity, yet they had unbelievably rejected the whole. And now, when he was nailed to the cross, they profess if he come down they would believe in him (vs. 40). But, triumphing in their hardness and infatuation, they exclaim, “he saved others, himself he cannot save.”

What they uttered in wicked irony, was full of important truth.

They unwittingly affirmed just what is the essence of the gospel, that Jesus, who saved others, could not save himself.

Let me then illustrate, and improve the declarations of our text - Matt. 27:42

1. Illustration of the declaration:

The declared that he had saved others - DUH - ten thousand evidences could have been brought to establish that. Almost every town and village could bear ample proof of it.

Friends and foes, the religious and profane could testify to the statement.

A. He had saved from diseases and wretchedness. Bartimeus - The lepers - The syrophenician woman. There was the woman with the bloody issue (**Mk.5:25**) the dumb (3 references to in Matt) - those with palsies - and others suffering from fevers and deafness.

B. He had saved from death - the nobleman’s daughter - the widow’s son on the way to his burial - and Lazarus from the gloomy tomb.

C. He had saved from sin and exposedness to eternal misery. The woman who “was a sinner” - The man born blind - Zaccheus - the dying thief....

2. They had declared that he could not save himself -

A. In one sense this was clearly false. He possessed all power, both in heaven and on earth.

He had life in himself - life that none could take away. Hence it is essential to the doctrine of atonement, to keep in view, that “Christ gave Himself.”(**Gal.1:4; Titus 2:14**) That, “He laid down his life,”(**John 10:15,17**) and He “gave up the ghost.”(**John 19:30**)

John

He could easily have frustrated all the plans of his enemies, with just a thought.

Yea, legions of angels would have rushed to his aid. A word from his almighty mouth would have paralyzed every hand lifted up against him.

B. There is a sense in which this declaration was true. That he had the sufficiency of power is evident; BUT, as the pledged surety and mediator of mankind, “it behooved him to suffer.”(**Lk.24:46; Acts 3:18**) There was a moral and a spiritual necessity for Christ dying.

Had he saved himself, the gracious purpose of heaven would have been frustrated. The predictions of the prophets falsified. All the types and sacrifices would have been stamped as unmeaning insignificancy. The end of, or purpose for his coming rendered void and unavailing. And the world must have been unredeemed forever.

Had he saved himself he could not have saved others ! We would yet be in our sins.

2. Improvement on this declaration: Helping us to see

A. The true cause of the suffering of Christ.

He suffered, because his infinite love and mercy were set upon our salvation.

Love brought him from heaven - was the spring of All his conduct toward our world - and which constrained him to offer himself a sacrifice for sin. The mystery of the cross, is a mystery of love which passes all understanding !

B. The expensiveness of our salvation.

He could not exalt us without being debased - "He was made sin for us..."(2 Cor.5:21)

He could not procure our justification without being condemned himself.

He could not feed us, without giving his body to be the "Bread of Life"

He could not deliver us from the curse, without being made a curse for us.(Gal.3:13)

He took our sins, and bore them in his own body on the tree.(1 Pet. 2:24)

The tempest which sin had created, showered its terrific contents on the soul of the blessed Jesus

I know we preach that salvation is free. It is to us. It cost Christ his all.

C. The claims of Jesus.

Love, so great - so utterly without a parallel, demands our admiration, our supreme love, our firmest confidence, our highest praises, yes, even the entire sacrifice of ourselves to Christ. "Ye are not your own..." " I am crucified with Christ..."

D. The heinousness of sin - To reject the Son of God. To despise His mission. To undervalue His work. And to trample underfoot His precious blood. Oh, the cruelty and awfulness of a sinner's heart. Hopefully you are not so bound by a lack of knowledge or unconcern as to be such a person.