



3. The Centurion at the Cross

What if you were the Centurion standing at the foot of the cross? What if you were looking up at the torn and bloody body of Jesus? His flesh ripped open by the Roman torturers' whips. The crown of thorns, long 2 inch thorns, beaten into His scalp and forehead still on His head ... blood running down His body as He hung there on three spikes ... pulling Himself up on those nails to get air into His lungs to breath or speak. What would you think ...

what would you feel if you were standing there watching?

A common criminal was on a cross each side of Jesus. One mocked Jesus ... just like many in the crowd did. The other thief believed. Both had the same evidence. But one lost his last chance to believe. The other believed and was headed into Paradise. It was a last minute decision ... the ultimate last-second buzzer beater.

Another man was there ... a Roman Centurion ... the soldier in charge of the execution. He might have even hammered in the nails. After Jesus died, he stood at the foot of the cross looking up at the

beaten, lifeless body of Jesus. What did he think? What did he say? Here's what he said from Matthew 27:54 and Luke 23:47, "*Certainly this man was innocent ... truly this was the Son of God.*" The Caesar of Rome wanted unlimited loyalty. The Caesar demanded to be worshipped and be called the Son of God. So that Roman Centurion was really saying, "Jesus is now my Caesar." So I'm asking you, *Is Jesus your Caesar?* Is Jesus more than your Savior? Is Jesus your ultimate commander and chief?

www.NotJustMilk.org ... written by John D. Morris III
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