

RESPONSES TO JESUS' DEATH
(Matthew 27:54-56)

- I. The Response of the SOLDIERS (Matt. 27:54)
 - A. Their CONFESSION of genuine FAITH
 1. Their probable INVOLVEMENT
 - a. Supported Jesus' ARREST (26:47-57)
 - b. Witnessed Jesus' TRIAL (27:11-26)
 - c. Participated in Jesus' SCOURGING (27:27-31)
 - d. Performed Jesus' CRUCIFIXION (27:32-35)
 2. Their present EXPERIENCE
 - a. Observed the Jews' CONTEMPT for Jesus (27:36-44)
 - b. Endured THREE HOURS of supernatural DARKNESS (27:45)
 - c. Heard Jesus SPEAK from the CROSS (27:46, 50)
 - d. Experienced a terrifying EARTHQUAKE (27:51b)
 3. Their perceptive CONCLUSION
 - a. An affirmation of CONVICTION: "TRULY..."
 - b. A statement of CONVERSION: "...this was the SON of GOD!"
(cf. Lk. 23:47)
 - c. An evidence of REVELATION (cf. Matt. 16:16-17; 1 Cor. 12:3)

- B. Their CONTRAST with the Jews' FURY
 - 1. HEARD more of Jesus' WORDS
 - 2. WITNESSED more of Jesus' MIRACLES
 - 3. KNEW more of current EVENTS
 - 4. CONTINUED in their UNBELIEF

II. The Response of the WOMEN (Matt. 27:55-56)

- A. Their CONSTANT FIDELITY
 - 1. Had been FOLLOWING Jesus since GALILEE
 - 2. Had been "MINISTERING to Him"
 - 3. Still OBSERVING at a RESPECTFUL DISTANCE
 - a. Included Mary MAGDALENE (cf.)
 - b. Included Mary, mother of JAMES and JOSEPH (cf. Mk. 15:40)
 - c. Included mother of the sons of ZEBEDEE (cf. Jn 19:25-26)
- B. Their CONTRAST with the Disciples' FEAR
 - 1. Had more INTIMATE contact with Jesus
 - 2. Had PARTICPATED in Jesus' MINISTRY
 - 3. Had BENEFITED from the WOMEN'S ministry
 - 4. Had HIDDEN when Jesus DIED