

JESUS IS REALLY THE SON OF GOD

John 6:41-42

Introduction: Take a look at the crucifixion scene and those around it. There are three crosses with a man on each cross who has been sentenced to death on a cross because of terrible crimes. There are the soldiers, some curious passer-bys and then there is a crying mother of one of the men on a cross, his idealistic young friend standing helpless beside the crying mother. What is there in this scene that should be proclaimed as the beginning of a great world faith? The mother was not the first nor the last to lose a son. What about the sign tacked on the cross above His head? It was more than just a description of His crimes. It distinguished this man as being different from the others for the sign read: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." This man on the middle cross had made a claim by stating the truth concerning his true identity and His mission. He claimed to be the Son of God.

I. JESUS MADE CERTAIN CLAIMS THAT OFFENDED RELIGIOUS LEADERS

1. Jesus claimed to be without human parentage, to be the long awaited Messiah.
 - He insisted that He was the King of kings.
 - He claimed to be able to rise from the dead after three days.
 - Most damaging of all, He claimed to be the Son of God.
2. The cross was supposed to silence all these claims.
 - However, instead of looking at the cross with hate, men look at it with love.
 - Hundreds of thousands through the years have approached the cross believing in the one who hung there. Jesus, the Son of God.
3. Anyone coming to the cross is confronted with the claims of Jesus.
 - Was He the Son of God? Was He the Messiah? Was He the Savior?
4. It has become very clear: either Jesus is all that He claimed to be - or - He is nothing.
 - No half-way point, no middle ground.

II. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD'S SON

1. Jesus did not come down from the cross and the heavens were silent.
 - There was no voice as the one heard at His baptism. Where was it?
2. Jesus received no answer from heaven from His cries to heaven "*...my God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?*"
3. All the events around the cross merely confirmed that Jesus was just a mere man.

III. GOD THEN ANSWERED

1. The sun was blotted out. Nobody could see God's Son's death.
 - Graves were opened, the dead walked the streets.

2. The precious veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom.
 - God would not have men honoring Him in a temple while mocking His Son on the cross.
3. Why darkness? Why dead walking the streets? God was mourning in the darkness.
4. God displayed His power as well. God answered the skeptics. They had cried "why doesn't God your father do something if you are God's Son?" So God did something.
 - Darkness, dead walking the streets, storms, earth shaking, rocks splitting.
5. God was so successful in proving Jesus' claims that a centurion standing by cried out,
 - "...truly this was the Son of God..."***

IV. THE CROSS IS WHERE LIFE BEGINS

1. A soldier made the claim that brings eternal life.
2. When people encounter the cross and affirm what the soldier did, that Jesus was not a mere man, but truly the Son of God, real life begins.
 - Have you considered the claims of Jesus and the statement of the soldier?
 - The only real way to grasp the meaning of the cross is to go there and look up at the one hanging on it and in a split instant the truth will break open your heart as it did that soldier's.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus said in John 3:16 how much God loves us. Did God mean it?
 - The cross says He did.
 - God loved His Son and He loved us also and proved His love for us through His Son.
2. Did you ever give this deep thought? God could have saved His Son but together they both chose to save us.
3. The cross is visible, historical evidence how much God loves us.
 - The cross does not say WHY God loves us, but it does answer how much.
4. Jesus said, ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the father but by me.."***
 - The cross proves that claim made by Jesus. He really is the Son of God.
5. There is no way to God except through Jesus and His cross.
 - If there was, then there would have been no cross nor shedding of Jesus' blood.
6. The cross is there for whosoever would look upon it and believe in the one who died on it, the Son of God and upon doing so, eternal life is given.