



what if what happened then  
changes everything now?



*the easter experience*

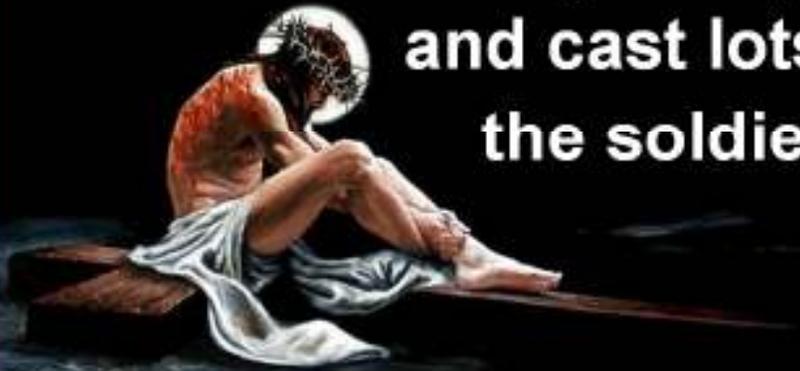
# *The Reality of the Cross*

**They Dismissed Jesus**



## *The Soldiers*

**When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did.**



**John 19:23-24**

# *The Soldiers*

**They quickly dismissed  
Jesus on the cross**



*Familiarity — They had seen all this before*

**“Law of Familiarity” that states, “No matter how valuable, given enough time, everything will be taken for granted.”**

**That was true for the soldiers when it came to carrying out a crucifixion.**

**When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.**

**Matthew 27:35–36**



*Familiarity — They had seen all this before*

For many of us the story of Jesus has become quite familiar.

Perhaps you've discovered that familiarity breeds indifference.

Is it possible for those of us who attend church regularly to become so familiar with the cross that we are no longer moved by it?



*Prejudice — They were turned off by God's people.*

**Prejudice can make us do terrible things.**

**It's not a new thing**

**The Romans and hated the Jews**

**The Jews, the feeling was mutual**

**They were so prejudiced against the  
people of god that they couldn't see the  
Savior dying for their sins.**



*Prejudice — They were turned off by God's people.*

**Maybe that's you**

**You've dismissed Jesus because you've developed a prejudice against those who claim to be his followers**

**Maybe the church has left such a bad taste in your mouth that you won't taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Look to Christ**



## *Look to Christ*

**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Hebrews 12:2**



*Distractions — They were focused on other things*

**Did you notice what the soldiers were preoccupied with?**

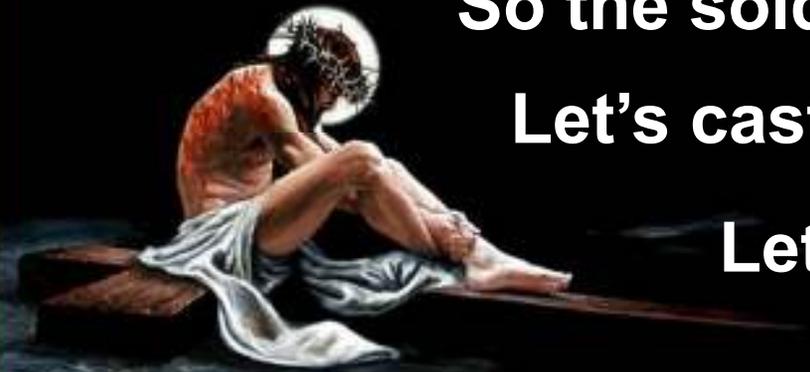
**Instead of giving their attention and focus to Jesus,  
they were caught up with who would  
win the garment that had been taken from Jesus.**

**So the soldiers said, “Let’s not cut this up**

**So the soldiers said, “Let’s not cut this up”**

**Let’s cast lots.      Let’s gamble for it**

**Let’s roll the dice      Let’s draw straws**



*Distractions — They were focused on other things*

**This is one of the reasons Jesus is so often dismissed. We're distracted by all the other things.**

**The death of Jesus Christ on that cross is absolutely the most important event in history and in your life.**

**Deciding what's important**



*Deciding what's important*

**What I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4**





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