

The Great Magnet

John 12:23-33

Three crosses were seen on Calvary's hill. The center cross was **the cross of redemption** as the Saviour bore our sins in His own body on the tree (*1 Pet. 2:24*). The center cross was meant for Barabbas whose name means "son of the father." The Jewish people wanted Pilate to release this murderer and crucify the Holy One in his stead (*Acts 3:14*). As a result, the true "Son of the Father" went to the cross to suffer for sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones (*1 Pet. 3:18*). Two criminals died, on the Lord's left and right. One malefactor refused to believe. His was **the cross of rejection**. The other evildoer initially hurled insults at Christ (*Matt. 27:44*), but later changed his mind and believed (*Luke 23:39-43*). His was **the cross of reception**.

Each cross carried a message. One Man **died for sins**, in the sinner's place. One man **died in his sins** (*John 8:24*); the other man **died with his sins forgiven** (*Acts 10:43*).

Our Lord once predicted that when He would be lifted up on the cross He would draw all men unto Himself (*John 12:32-33*). A magnet attracts **metal**; the center cross attracts all **mankind**. All men are drawn to the center cross where a decision must be made.

We each must answer this question: *What will I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?* (*Matt. 27:22*) Will I receive Him or reject Him? Which evildoer will I imitate? All men are drawn to the center cross where they must consider the crucified One and decide what they will do with Him. We can see the cross as foolishness or we can see the cross as the wisdom and power of God (*1 Cor. 1:18,24*).

We can **receive** Him or **reject** Him. Our **decision** will determine our **destiny**.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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