

IRONIES OF THE CROSS

I. THE JUDGE OF ALL MEN WAS JUDGED BY A MAN

A. **John 19:5-13; 2nd Corinthians 5:10**

Jesus appeared before the judgment seat of Pilate to receive a sentence of death, but we will all appear before Christ's judgment seat. How interesting it will be to watch Pilate stand before Christ for judgment!

B. **Luke 23:23-24; 2nd Timothy 4:8**

Unlike the judge at His own trial, who sentenced Him to an undeserved death, Jesus is a righteous Judge, who will deal justly with all who come before Him.

C. **Romans 8:1**

Jesus knows just what it feels like to sit as a defendant, awaiting a sentence of certain condemnation. Nevertheless, He assures "no condemnation" to His children.

II. THE FRIEND OF SINNERS DIED WITHOUT A FRIEND

A. **Matthew 11:19; 9:9-12; Luke 19:1-10**

In His life, Jesus was a friend to those who most needed one.

B. **Matthew 26:47-50**

He even called Judas His friend when he came to betray Him.

C. **Luke 5:11; Mark 14:50**

When their companionship would have been most appreciated, those who had forsaken all to follow Him suddenly forsook Him and fled.

E. **Luke 22:54; 23:49**

Those who had been His most intimate companions in life found themselves observing His trial and crucifixion from a distance.

III. THE ONE WHO BROUGHT JOY TO THE WORLD DIED IN SORROW

A. Luke 2:10-11; 8:1

His birth brought great joy because Jesus proclaimed glad tidings to the world.

B. Luke 23:27

As He made His way to the cross, He was mourned and lamented.

C. Isaiah 53:3

He who brought happiness to the earth, left it as a *“man of sorrows”*,
“acquainted with grief”.

IV. HE WHO OFFERS A LIGHT BURDEN STRUGGLED BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

A. Matthew 11:28-30; 1st John 5:3

Jesus invites the weary to accept from Him a light burden through love and obedience.

B. John 19:17; Luke 23:26

Weak from His ordeal, Jesus appears to have fallen beneath the load of His own cross. No one offered Him an easy yoke.

V. THE SINLESS SON OF GOD DIED BETWEEN TWO THIEVES

A. Mark 15:27-28

He who taught that *“it is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35) died between two men who took what did not belong to them.

C. Hebrews 7:26

1. He who was *“holy, harmless, undefiled”* died with those who were corrupt, dangerous, and defiled.
2. He who was *“separate from sinners”* died beside them.
3. He who has been made *“higher than the heavens”* was associated on that day with the scum of the earth.