



Almost!

Luke 23:13-25

Almost

A man with a beard and a crown of thorns, wearing a white robe, is shown in profile, looking upwards. He is surrounded by a crowd of people, some of whom are also wearing white robes. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall image has a soft, slightly blurred quality.

- Pilate almost set Jesus free.
- Pilate had the authority to set Jesus free.
- Pilate listened to the voice of Satan.
- Pilate knew that Annas and Caiaphas were not only corrupt and greedy but were lying about Jesus.
- The Bible clearly teaches that there are no "*almosts*" with God.

Father, Forgive Them!

- Looking through tears and blood Jesus could see the faces of the people who had gathered around Him.
- The disciples were not there.
- Soldiers were there though, gathered underneath the cross, throwing dice and gambling.
- They could hear the cries of pain, yet they were more interested in seeing who would get His robe.
- While watching all this, Jesus prayed, "*Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.*"

Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthini



- The gospels tell us that Jesus spoke seven times on the cross.
- Jesus spoke three times before the darkness came.
- When the storm was at its height, Jesus cried out, "*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthini?*" ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")
- When the storm was at its height, the sins of this world caused God the Father to turn His face from His Son.
- After the darkness left, three more cries came from His lips.
- The greatest victory of all had been won.

The Message of Calvary

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with a crown of thorns, looking upwards, surrounded by a crowd of people. The scene is set in a dark, atmospheric environment, possibly a courtyard or a public square. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the central figure of Christ against the darker background of the crowd.

- There's nothing more consistent about life than its inconsistencies.
- God is able to take all our inconsistencies, and weave them together into a beautiful tapestry, just as He planned.
- Our despair is replaced with eternal hope, because that is the message of Calvary.

Conclusion



- The ultimate tragedy in every worship service is that there are people who are “almost” ready to make a decision.
- They are so engrossed in what they're doing that they never look up and let the message sink in and make a change in their lives.
- Do not turn away like Caiaphas, Annas, Pilate and the soldiers; make your commitment to Christ today.