

Mark 15:31-32a . . . . . “Himself, He Cannot Save...”

1. <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes, were mocking *Him* among themselves and saying, ‘He saved others; He cannot save Himself. <sup>32a</sup> Let *this* Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!’ — “Himself, He Cannot Save”
  
2. the priests were wrong
  - a. this man, Jesus of Nazareth, was also, through the miracle of the incarnation, the eternal Son of God
    - i. He is the all-Powerful Creator: “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John 1:3)
    - ii. His power was public knowledge as Peter declared to Cornelius’ household: ‘*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*’ (Acts 10:38)
  - b. their very mocking admitted as much ... ‘He saved others’
    - i. from the early days of His ministry, they watched Him like a hawk
    - ii. if there was any deception in His miracles – healing, even raising Lazarus from death – they would have found it out and made it public
  - c. and Jesus claimed that power
    - i. Jesus, who was from above, stated as much to Pilate: “...*You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; ...*” (John 19:11)
    - ii. and in the garden, after Peter’s striking of the ear of the high priest’s servant, Jesus said, ‘*Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*’ (Matthew 26:53)
  - d. the priests were wrong
  
3. but the priests were also right
  - a. for Jesus, in that scene in the garden, went on to say, ‘*How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?*’ (Matthew 26:54)
  - b. ‘*it is impossible for God to lie*’ (Hebrews 6:18)
  - c. Jesus was ‘*nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*’ (Acts 2:23) – Jew and Gentile combined – all mankind – you and I – to crucify Jesus the Christ; but also
  - d. Jesus was ‘*delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God...*’ (Acts 2:23)
  - e. If Jesus had not died, then there would have been not salvation
    - i. salvation for those very priests who jeered and joked at His death
    - ii. salvation for a world that is in rebellion against God
    - iii. salvation for you and for me
    - iv. so that we may say with Paul, “*But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*” (Galatians 6:14)