INTRODUCTION

- Matthew 27. Besides the Lord’s resurrection, we see fulfilled prophecy in Judas’ fate, we also see an earthquake, the resurrection of other dead saints, and women playing major roles – all giving crediblity to the Bible’s truths.

PASSAGE

**Can a Greedy Betrayers be Saved?**
- Judas seemed remorseful of betraying Jesus
- He threw away the money he received
- He hanged himself he was so despondent
- Unfortunately, other passages predicted his fate. See last week’s passages
- But, yes, betrayers can theoretically get saved if they honestly repent and humble themselves as a child.

**Can a Heathen Wife be Saved?**
- Pilate’s wife makes an astonishing claim of being troubled by her dreams of Jesus
- Do only godly people have “prophetic” dreams?
- Do dreams have a purpose we can leverage?
- When someone says “God gave me a word” or a ‘dream’ – How do you prove it to be of God?
  - **YOU CAN’T – AND THEY CAN’T.** You have to go on blind faith and take their word for it – Which is unbiblical. We are commanded to prove all things.

**Common Principle on Dreams** – Trust in God’s objective word and not in subjective dreams
- People receive their dreams while not in full control of their faculties and possibly under the influence of spicy chicken wings
- For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness .................................................. Ecclesiastes 5:7
- We are not to be fooled by those who take a stand on their visions and dreams.......................... Col 2:18
- Yes, even heathens can be saved .................. Romans 1

**Why mention an insignificant man who carried the Lord’s cross, Simon from Cyrene?**
- Apparently, both Luke and Theophilus new this man or new of him since Simon’s sons, Alexander and Rufus were known to the early church.......................... Mark 15:21
  
  Remember the Song – “Watch the Lamb”
  
  It is a song about Simon talking to his 2 sons after he carried the Lord’s cross
  
  This simple inclusion gives additional credence to this story by Mathew tying another real figure who could verify his participation and his perspective

**The negative witnesses of the crucifixion started to mock Christ**
- “If you really are the Messiah, come down”
- “If you can destroy & rebuild the temple in 3 days, save yourself”

**Can Cruel Enemy Soldiers Be Saved?**
- v51 – Veil torn in 2 and earthquake
- v52 – Tombs opened and dead saints came forth (now that woulda spooked any of us)
- v54 – Centurion realized He was God or a god after witnessing all that went on
  - He saw the sign – “King of the Jews”
  - He did not hear Jesus cuss or complain throughout
  - He heard Jesus forgive His tormentors
  - He probably heard accusations of Him being God or at least being the prophet Elijah
  - He saw one thief accept Christ
  - He experienced the earthquake at Jesus’ death
  - He probably heard the reports of the torn veil and dead people walking into town
- So, yes, even ISIS terrorists can get saved, like Paul

**Can Lawyers & Pharisees Be Saved?**
- Joseph of Arimathea, a counselor/lawyer, asked for the body of Jesus .............. Mark 15:43; Lk 23:50; Jn 19:38,39
- We know from John 19:39 that Nicodemus, a Pharisee ruler, was with him
- BUT, Jesus says that whoever denies Him before men, He will deny them before God; so how can Joseph & Nicodemus be saved since they were fearful of man? ...it was not a life-long denial
- Plus, we know from Acts 6:7 that “a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith”
- So, yes, even lawyers and Pharisees can be saved

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Anyone can get saved…..so be bold and preach to all
- The only ones who fail to get saved are those who willingly and knowingly reject Christ either intentionally or negligently (aka Blaspheme the Holy Spirit) .............. Mark 3:28-29; 1John 5:16

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 28:16-20. The Great Commission is given. How well are we fulfilling that commission?