

NORTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Characters on the Road to the Cross

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“And as they led Him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene who was coming in from the country and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed Him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But turning to them Jesus said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, “Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.” Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us and to the hills, cover us. For if they do these things in when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?’ “Two others who were criminals were being led away to be put to death with Him.” Luke 23:26-32

Five different groups of people on the final journey to the cross.

1. The Mixed Murderers

“And when they led Him away...” Verse 26

2. The Supporting Stranger.

“They seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country”

“(Jesus) went out bearing His own cross.” John 19:17

“There were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also preaching the Lord Jesus.” Acts 11:20

3. The Curious Crowd

“And there were following Him a great multitude of the people,...” Verse 27

4. The Weeping Women

“Women also were following Him who were mourning and lamenting Him.” Verse 27

“Jesus turning to them said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me.’” Verse 28

“And all the multitudes that came together for the spectacle when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their chests.” Luke 23:48

“...he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.” John 3:18

“Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ...how often I wanted to gather your children together...and you would not have it. Behold, your house is left to you desolate.” Luke 13:34-35

“Behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘fall on us.’ And to the hills, ‘cover us.’” Luke 23:29-30

5. The Companion Criminals

“Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him.” Verse 32