

What Will You See?

In the middle hung the Christ of the world. To each side, suffering with Him, hung two thieves paying the price for their misdeeds. At some point in their misery, each thief looked upon the man between them and each saw...something. What did they see?

When the brazen altar traveled from place to place during Israel's sojourn, it always traveled with coverings. Before being moved, the altar was first covered in a purple cloth and over the purple went a covering of badger's skin. Purple in Bible typology is representative of the heavenly and is often associated with royalty. The plain and fleshly colored badger skins represent the earthly and humanity. As the altar hung from staves borne on the shoulders of the Levites, a man could look and see the altar moving wrapped in plain skins. Did the purple covering ever peek through?

As the two thieves—hours from eternity, looked upon the man betwixt them, they may not have realized that He was the ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins. Not only was Jesus the fulfillment of every Old Testament sacrifice, He was the fulfillment of the altar itself and He was about to finish His sojourn on this earth. One thief looked upon Jesus and saw only the badger skin. He saw only a man, dying as he himself was dying and he railed on Him. However, the other thief looked upon the bloodied Christ and a flash of purple showed through. He saw something heavenly and through eyes of faith he saw a king. "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom," he implored. I don't know when the thief expected his request to be fulfilled but Jesus said, "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

What will you see when you go to God's house this Sunday? The troubles, the hypocrites, and the imperfect? Or will you see The Church, Mount Zion, the place where heaven and earth meet together. What will you hear when the choir sings? What will you see when the preacher stands behind the pulpit? With eyes of faith let us see the heavenly blessings that are so richly bestowed upon us. Within all of the flawed humanity in the church, there is a little heaven trying to peek through. What will you see? Remember, what you see is what you get!