

Sounds Of The Passion: Hammer Ringing

Matthew 27:32-38 (CEB)

As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, he didn't want to drink it. After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. They sat there, guarding him. They placed above his head the charge n against him. It read, "This is Jesus, the king of the Jews." They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left.

Notes

- The sound of the hammer signifies the nails driven into Christ, but there is also a new promise and hope that came from that hammer.
- The sound of the hammer also represents building and growth, something new being put into place.
- The horror of the hammer's sound also points us to the reality that God loves us so much that he gave his Son so a home for us could be built.
- Jesus' death ultimately represents hope for our future and the building of the Kingdom here and now.

Questions

1. Reflect on instances where you've served to build something new, such as a mission project or founding a ministry. How did that experience help you better understand the growth and advancement of the Kingdom of God?
2. The hammer represents both Christ's death and God building a new Kingdom. What are some of the ways you observe and praise God for each of these aspects of Christ's death and resurrection?
3. Some struggle with the idea of God giving his Son to die for sin. How would you explain this topic to a non-Christian?
4. What do you believe God is building new right now in his Kingdom, even during unique and challenging circumstances?