When Jesus Looked Down

When Jesus looked down from the cross He saw and heard many things.

He saw His mother, weeping, and being comforted by the disciples. He saw a few of His friends, those who had not deserted Him, looking helplessly up at Him.

He saw that a large crowd had gathered to watch. Some of them had been put there by the Pharisees to keep an eye on Jesus and His disciples, while others were just curious about the would-be Messiah. Some of the crowd were people whose lives He had touched, maybe even with a miracle; they watched silently and sadly. Still others waited to see if He would entertain them by performing a miracle and coming down from the cross.

After the events of the past week, the whole crowd must have known who He was.

He saw, too, that while some of the soldiers stood guard by the crosses, others gambled and cast lots to decide who would get the clothes of the condemned.

He also saw that some of the Pharisees who had had Him condemned were nearby, looking very satisfied with the results of their accusations.

He heard the mocking and taunting of those calling to Him to come down and save Himself for their amusement.

He even heard one of the other two being crucified mock Him. To the other, who defended Him, He gave forgiveness.

But being God as well as man, Jesus could see more than this.

He could see every single person from the past, present and future. They were standing around the cross. Some of them were determinedly looking away, many were oblivious to what was happening, others were idly glancing up at Him, while a few had fixed their eyes on Him.

He could also see into all of their hearts; to the wickedness and evil in them. He could see the jealousy, greed and hatred that motivated them. In short, He could see the sin that separated them from His Father.

Seeing all of this, Jesus chose to stay on that cross.