

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.
Titus 3:9

There are so many questions that people would ask us about the Christ, as we traveled throughout the land.

The storyteller told me of a dream that he once had, concerning questions that people asked Christ as He hung on the cross ... It gave him a change of perspective that enabled him to enrich the stories of the Kingdom that He would later tell.

In the dream, he found himself at the foot of the cross. He was a witness to it all. Amid the calls for Him to save Himself and come down from the cross were followers who seek counsel from Him. And, just as they would not leave Him alone in life, they could not forget their own concerns for even a moment and approached Him even in his agony.

*There was Jesus, nailed to the cross, His body wracked with pain, when two young men in fine clothes came Him. One asked, "Master, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me!"¹ It took a moment for Jesus to respond. Then He pushed against the nails in his feet so that He could get enough breath to speak and said, "**Do you think that this is what I am dying for?**" The two brothers looked at each other in confusion. The one who had spoken earlier appeared about to speak again, but he turned and walked away instead.*

*A woman came up a little later and said, "Master, there is a great dispute ongoing about which group has the correct form in their worship. Who is right?"² Jesus' head had been hanging down and blood from the placement of the crown of thorns was slowly dripping from it. He now raised it slightly so that we could see the agony there. His eyes were opened a little wide as he looked down on the woman. Again he struggled as He said, "**Do you think that this is what I am dying for?**" His head sank down again, seeking a position of some comfort. The woman shook her head in exasperation at his uncooperativeness and stalked off.*

*Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Him and asked, "Your disciples don't wash their hands before they eat! Why do they break the tradition of the elders?"³ Jesus had been alternating between hanging from his hands and pushing up with his feet, but just couldn't ease the suffering. The blood streamed from his wounds, but he found the strength to reply, "**Do you think that this is what I am dying for?**" The questioners just looked at Him in scorn and left.*

*It was difficult to believe what was happening. Here was a man dying on the cross and people tried to press their own problems and concerns on Him. They simply had no idea of His purpose and calling and of the glory of His sacrifice for them. After a while Jesus looked up and saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing with her trying his best to comfort her. He saw the power of the love between them and was touched to the depths of His soul. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother." And then He said, "**Now this is what I am dying for!**" And in a few minutes He said, "It is finished!" And he bowed His head again and gave up His spirit⁴.*

After telling me about the dream, the storyteller told me that he would begin talking with others about what question they might feel important enough to ask Christ. Then he told them about the dream. It became a parable, in a sense, about how we need to focus on what is truly important to God. It usually made them think, instead of what Jesus would do, of what Jesus would die for.

¹taken from Luke 12:13

²taken from John 4:20

³taken from Matthew 15:2

⁴taken from John 19:26-30

