

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 15TH-16TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

CONDEMNED (JOHN 19:1-16) "...AND HAD HIM FLOGGED."

Humiliation was a big part of Roman punishment. So, after a severe beating, Jesus was crowned with thorns, wrapped in a purple robe, and slapped to inflict more pain and mock His claim of being divinity/royalty.

- **Brutality, humiliation, and cruelty have always been major hallmarks of sin.**

FUSTIGATIO AND VERBERATIO

Pilate never intended to kill Jesus but to punish Him enough to satisfy the Jewish mob. Most likely, Jesus received two beatings, which explains why He was unable to carry His cross on His own (Luke 23:26).

- The mindset of Pilate is a fascinating part of the crucifixion account.

"HERE IS THE MAN!"

Roman officials would present punished prisoners to the people. Pilate thought the sight of Jesus' bloody body might convince the mob to let Him live, but they burst into more violent clamoring, calling for His crucifixion.

- **Sin has an insatiable appetite and always leads us to unfathomably dark places.**

ANOTHER INTERROGATION

After the Jewish leaders invoke the claim of blasphemy against Jesus (Leviticus 24:16), Pilate brings Jesus back for another interrogation to try and find a way out of this situation.

- In a failed attempt to strike fear in Jesus, Pilate is quieted by Jesus' simple response about heavenly authority.

WHAT WAS PILATE REALLY AFRAID OF?

Notice Pilate has no response to Jesus and then desperately tries anything to get out of this predicament. What was Pilate truly afraid of?

- Was it the fear of losing his position and facing Caesar? Was it the rebellion of the locals in his province? Or **was there some concern about who Jesus was?**

THE PRESSURE OF SOCIETY

Though Pilate "kept trying to release Him," the Jewish leaders used Caesar to scare him into crucifying Jesus.

- **How is culture/society putting pressure on us to hand over what we may feel or even know to be right? Are we compromising and caving?**

"WE HAVE NO KING BUT CAESAR!"

Ancient Rome is a perfect example of worldly principles vs. godly ones. Oddly, we live in a kind of revised Rome, and **we must be honest about where our allegiances really lie.**

- The Jews' sin had led them to an insane conclusion, but **there is always insanity when giving in to sin.**

THE KING (JOHN 19:17-27)

JOHN'S FOCUS IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John has little to say about the pain of the crucifixion and more about **the identity of who was being crucified: the Savior of humanity prophesied in the OT.**

- The SGs leave out dividing the clothes, casting lots, sour wine, breaking the thieves' legs, and piercing His side that fulfill OT prophecy.

THE VIA DOLOROSA

Jesus walked with a quaternion down the longest path toward where He was to be crucified carrying a 100 lbs. crossbeam and led by a soldier carrying a placard with His "crime" on it. He was then placed on a patibulum where spikes were driven through His wrists and feet so He could push up for air.

BETWEEN THIEVES

Jesus was intentionally put between criminals to further degrade Him. Pilate made a sign that read "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," and the Jewish leaders wanted it changed.

- Pilate's refusal is interesting, but John's record of this was to show **the irony** of the truth in Pilate's description of **Jesus' identity.**

THE CREATOR AND KING

Jesus and the cross is the ultimate irony. We're presented with the King and Creator of the Universe, who was willingly nailed to His creation by His creation for His creation.

- **The teachings and humble example of Jesus show a blatant contradiction to the destructive paths of the world.**

THIS IS WHY THE CROSS CUTS THROUGH

The cross is universally recognized. Many revere it, many despise and hate it, others casually use it as a fashion accessory. The cross also divides our understanding of time.

- **The point is, Jesus makes us choose** (Matthew 12:30). **Even though we may think we can approach the cross casually, we cannot.**

CASTING LOTS AND TAKING MARY IN

Over 20 OT prophecies were fulfilled in the 24 hours of Jesus' crucifixion. The soldiers gambling for His clothes fulfilled Psalm 22.

- As the soldiers gambled, Jesus looked out and saw His mother with other followers and made sure John took responsibility for His mother. This honored Exodus 20:12.

FINISHED (JOHN 19:28-37)

"EVERYTHING WAS NOW FINISHED"

Jesus came for a specific purpose, and now that all the prophecies were fulfilled and His work was finished, His death was immanent.

- Jesus said, "I'm thirsty," and they gave Him sour wine (not to be confused with Mark 15:23). This alludes to Psalm 69 and may also allude to Jesus quenching our spiritual thirst.

"IT IS FINISHED"

This phrase refers to the suffering and earthly life of Jesus, but also the task of bringing humanity salvation and reconciliation with God.

- **"It is finished" is both a cry of relief and a shout of victory.** It is about the **finished work of Jesus to save us, our hope in this chaotic world, and our eternity.**

RELIGION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP

Because it was almost Sabbath, the Jews wanted the legs of the three crucified to be broken so they'd die faster and not defile their religious day. The irony of having people killed but not wanting to ruin a religious ceremony is stunning.

- **Do we protect religion without living out the love and obedience of Jesus?**

JESUS WAS ALREADY DEAD

Jesus had already died, so there was no need to break His legs. This aligned with prophecy and the practice of not breaking the bones of the **sacrificial lamb** (Exodus 12:46; Psalms 34:20).

- **Jesus came and died at this specific time to be the atonement for all sin for anyone who would accept His gift.**

AND HIS SIDE WAS PIERCED

To make sure He was dead, a soldier slashed the side of Jesus, and blood and water came out, indicating He was dead. This also fulfilled prophecy (Zechariah 12:10).

- John mentions this to show that **the Word became flesh (John 1) and died for humanity.** There is probably little more to it.

BORROWED (JOHN 19:38-42)

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

Joseph was a rich and influential leader that followed Jesus "secretly because of his fear of the Jews." He asked Pilate for Jesus' body and even gave up his tomb for Him to be buried.

- **We learn that all willing people, even those who have much, are welcomed and important in God's Kingdom.**

OUR OLD FRIEND NICODEMUS

Though John says Nic and Joe followed in secret, them preparing the body and talking with Pilate gave them away to the Jews. **It is odd the disciples ran, but these men came out.**

- **Are we, as privileged people, willing to sacrifice our reputations and lifestyles for a crucified Christ?**

JUST THE BASIC FACTS

John ends this section with the basic facts. From his record, we have no doubt who Jesus is and that He died for humanity to be saved. Jesus was placed in a new tomb by people who loved Him.

- Imagine John's anticipation to write about what was to happen next!

THE INSANITY OF SIN

- When we compromise biblical integrity or give in to sin, we start to act irrationally, cruel, and even brutal. These things are always indicative of sin.
- Do we know Jesus' commands and principles? Are we following them? Have we caved to social pressure?

ACCEPTING THE FINISHED WORK

- **We cannot save or fix ourselves.** We must accept Jesus' work by accepting His identity and living by His teachings and principles.
- **We're saved by His work,** not to make excuses for sinful behavior or spiritual apathy, but **to work on our relationship with Him and do good works that bless others.**

DENYING OURSELVES (MATTHEW 16:24)

- In order to be saved, we must **deny ourselves** (put our wants after God's), **pick up our cross** (make Jesus' mission our mission, despite the cost), and **follow Him** (learn and apply Jesus' teachings and principles). **Honestly, are we willing to lay it all down to follow Him?**

JESUS' IDENTITY AND MISSION

- **Jesus is the way, truth, and life.** He is God who became flesh in order to speak to humanity on our level and set the example of how we are to live.
- **There is no path to real love, peace, and fulfillment now and eternal life later apart from Christ.**
- He is the Creator, and we're His most prized creation. He loves us so much He made us to be like Him. Sin separated us, but Jesus gave it all to save our souls and reconcile us to Him.
- **Jesus' mission is us! He doesn't need us, but He wants us!**