

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 16TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### UNJUST SENTENCING OF CHRIST (JOHN 19:1-16A)

#### "PILATE TOOK JESUS AND HAD HIM FLOGGED"

In Rome, flogging consisted of being beaten with a leather whip of knotted strips with pieces of bone and metal attached, causing deep contusions and hanging ribbons of flesh.

- This brutal beating was **given out for three reasons: to punish the guilty, to induce a confession, or to weaken a convicted criminal enough to die quickly on a cross.**

#### "...THEY KEPT COMING UP TO HIM..."

Pilate called Jesus "king of the Jews," and the soldiers decided that the "king" needed a crown and a robe. They placed a robe on His mangled flesh and a crown of thorns on His head as **they repeatedly mocked Him and beat Him.**

- **As Jesus bore our sins on the cross, the thorns brought into the world because of sin (Genesis 3:18) would be placed on His head.**

#### "HERE IS THE MAN!"

Pilate says again that he has found no grounds to charge Jesus on, but he was the one that handed Him over to be flogged.

- When he presents a bloodied and beaten Jesus, it seems as though **he hoped the crowd would have pity on Jesus, consider the punishment sufficient, and release Him.**

### PITY WILL NOT SAVE US

It is not wrong for us to consider all that took place leading to the cross and become emotionally charged. However, **we must distinguish sentiment from spiritual transformation.**

- We are saved by grace through faith, meaning **we repent of sins and trust in Jesus**, the perfect sinless Passover lamb.

### PILATE STATES JESUS' INNOCENCE A THIRD TIME

Pilate's attempt to release Jesus failed, and his words only aroused more anger from the crowd, and they shouted, "**Crucify! Crucify!**"

- Once Pilate says he has "no grounds to charge for charging him," the crowd brings up the only true charge against Jesus: **He committed blasphemy by declaring Himself the Son of God.**

#### "...NO AUTHORITY, IF NOT GIVEN..."

Jesus remained silent before His accusers, fulfilling Isaiah 53:7. When Jesus would not answer him, **Pilate spoke of the authority he thought he had over Jesus.**

- Pilate thought he knew of power and that he possessed it, but Jesus made it plain. **Any authority Pilate had was given to him by the Father, who sent Him.**

### THE GREATER SIN

Jesus told Pilate, "**This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.**"

- The mob, Jewish Leaders, and Romans all acted in line with who they were: of the world. Judas' sin was more egregious because **he claimed to be a follower of Christ and his actions were out of character for who he claimed to be.**

### CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST (JOHN 19:16B-27)

#### MORE SPIRITUAL THAN PHYSICAL

The agony of the cross was well known, so John spars the gory details and simply says, "**they crucified Him.**"

- Instead of focusing on the gruesome details of the physical suffering, let's look at the degree of spiritual suffering of the cross. **Jesus was made sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and the wrath we deserved was placed on Him.**

### FULFILLMENT OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus was crucified between two criminals fulfilling Isaiah 53:12, and the casting of lots for His garments fulfilled Psalms 22:18.

- The note about Jesus' seamless garment is important because Exodus 28:31-32 tells us that the High Priests wore seamless garments. **This distinction shows Jesus as the Great High Priest.**

#### "I AM THE KING OF THE JEWS"

Criminals were required to wear a placard indicating their crime while being punished.

- Pilate used the placard on the cross and His placement between two criminals to insult and embarrass the Jews. It was that placard that caught the eye of one of the criminals on the cross beside Jesus, who said, "**Remember me when you come into your kingdom.**"

### SELFLESS AND OTHERS-CENTERED

On the cross, Jesus looks out and sees His mother and says, "**Here is your son**" (talking about John), and to John, He says, "**Here is your mother,**" entrusting her into his care.

- Jesus made a point previously to say that those who do the will of His Father are His family (Matthew 12:48-50). **This selfless care is extended to those who are in the family of God.**

### DEATH OF CHRIST (JOHN 19:28-37)

#### "I'M THIRSTY"

Mark 15:23 tells us that Jesus refused the wine mixed with myrrh that would have dulled the pain, but now requested a drink, fulfilling Psalms 69:21, "**For my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.**"

- The drink given was not an act of compassion. It was given to contract throat muscles keeping victims from crying out in pain. Despite the drink, **Jesus made His final announcement.**

#### "IT IS FINISHED!"

Jesus was able to shout out "**Tetelestai,**" a common Greek word.

- This shout of victory from Christ on the cross was used by **servants** when they completed an assigned work, **Priests** when they found a faultless sacrifice, **artists** when they completed a masterpiece, and **merchants** when a transaction was complete and paid in full.

### WILLINGLY LAID HIS LIFE DOWN

In "**bowing his head,**" Jesus didn't fling His head down in defeat. Instead, it was more peaceful, like laying down to sleep on a pillow. Then, "**He gave up the spirit.**" Death had no power over Him, so He had to give up his life (John 10:17-18).

- **Unlike any man before or after Christ, He did not lose His life; he gave it up.**

### BLOOD AND WATER

The soldiers at the cross fulfilled Scripture by doing what they were not supposed to do and not doing what they were supposed to do.

- Instead of breaking the legs of Christ (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalms 34:20), the soldiers pierced His side (Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7), and blood and water came out. These two cleansing agents signify **removing guilt and the stain of sin.**

### BURIAL OF CHRIST (JOHN 19:38-42)

#### TWO DISCIPLES STEP INTO THE LIGHT

When all of the disciples had scattered, except John, it was **two "secret" followers of Christ that emerged to request Jesus' body for burial from Pilate.**

- These "secret" disciples stepped into the light requesting Jesus' body and **cast aside religious customs that made them unable to participate in the Passover meal.**

### FULFILLMENT OF MORE SCRIPTURE

Why would Joseph have a tomb so close to where crucifixions occurred? He was rich and could have had a tomb hewn in the Holy City, as most pious Jews preferred.

- Isaiah 53:9 says, "**He was assigned a grave with the wicked, but he was with a rich man at his death.**" Jesus was laid in Joseph's tomb, but **He would only borrow it for a few days.**