

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 16TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

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

This was not the same scourging we see in the other gospels. This first flogging would have been mild in comparison. Its intent was to "teach a lesson" to those that had broken lesser laws.

- **Pilate wasn't trying to take it easy on Jesus; he was trying to keep peace and stay out of trouble with the government.**

MOCKERY

As the soldiers made the crown of thorns, put the purple robe on Jesus, and slapped Him, the goal was to humiliate and diminish the image of Christ in front of the people.

- **Pilate had made a mockery of the "king of the Jews" and tried to show them that "the man" had no real value. Sound familiar? It gets worse...**

CRUCIFY!

They were not satisfied. The only way to stop Jesus was to eliminate Him completely. Jesus didn't fit their religion, their law, or their politics.

- **When Pilate heard that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, his superstition caused him to fear. He questioned Jesus out of self-preservation, not salvation.**

POWER

Pilate wants to know if Jesus is some kind of demi-god and threatens Him with his authority to release Him or crucify Him. Jesus responds again that God is in control of the entire situation.

- **God always has a plan for our lives. Even in the chaos of life, when others question His authority, He has a plan.**

WEAKNESS

Pilate tried to release Jesus to keep the peace, and the crowd challenged his loyalty to Caesar. In fear and weakness, he handed Jesus over to be crucified.

- **Pilate had the authority to save Jesus, and the crowd had the opportunity to save Jesus. The only one there with the resolve to save anyone was Jesus.**

CRUCIFIED (JOHN 19:16B-30) ... THEY TOOK JESUS AWAY.

At this point, they would have scourged Jesus in the most severe way at the beginning of His crucifixion. Carrying the cross was a sign of His guilty verdict, and the cross stood for the basest kind of rejection, shame, and suffering.

- **This wasn't a modern execution; it was public, painful, and unstoppable.**

A SIGN

Pilate, to irritate the ones demanding the crucifixion, had a sign made that declared "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Earlier, Caiaphas, the high priest, said it would be better that one man die for the nation.

- **John shares the irony that these men spoke unintended truth. This one man, the King, would also be their judge.**

MORE SHAME

As part of the execution, the executioners would receive the clothes of the guilty as a form of payment. They divided Jesus' clothes and cast lots for His tunic as prophesy said.

- **Jesus' nakedness was part of the shame which He bore for our sins. At the same time, He is the one that provides clothes of righteousness for sinners.**

STANDING BY THE CROSS

Over the last three years, many had followed Christ. Twelve became His closest disciples. Eleven had made it to the garden. Here, we see four women standing by the cross.

- **It wasn't easy for them. But they loved the Lord, they followed Him, they stayed with Him, no matter how great the price, no matter how deep the pain. Where are we?**

FINISHED

After Jesus had made provision for His mother, He declared His thirst. With compassion, someone offered up a sponge full of cheap wine. It was just enough to help Him declare "It is finished!"

- **The suffering was over. The work was complete. The prophecies had been fulfilled. The need for sacrifice, satisfied.**

"HE GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT"

John reminds us again that although Jesus was crucified, He was not murdered. Jesus willingly gave His life for us. He completely surrendered Himself as THE sacrifice for sin.

- **Jesus completely paid the price for our sins. We can't, because we can't do what has already been done. We CAN believe, follow and know Jesus.**

BURIED (JOHN 19:31-42) PREPARATION DAY

The next day was Passover, so the leaders didn't want bodies left on crosses. The soldiers did not do what they were supposed to do—break Jesus' legs—but they did do what they were not supposed to do—pierce His side.

- **We shouldn't be so surprised when God uses unusual things or circumstances to keep His Word.**

BLOOD AND WATER

John gives eyewitness testimony that Jesus' side was pierced, and then he saw blood and water with his own eyes.

- **A few years after the crucifixion, some started a rumor that Jesus hadn't really died on the cross. Everyone there that day saw Jesus die, and John wanted to remind them of that truth.**

JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS

Joseph and Nicodemus had been keeping their belief in Jesus a secret, out of fear. Now, they were willing to risk their business, religious standing, and even Passover.

- **Our motivation shouldn't come from guilt, pressure, or manipulation of emotions. We should follow Christ because of what He did on the Cross.**

THE TOMB

Joseph and Nicodemus may have had secrets but they had prepared for this day. The personal request, the spices, the new tomb and the speedy preparation for burial must have been part of their plan. **They knew it would be worth every ounce of expense, effort, and exposure, because they had truly found the Lamb of God.**

MOTIVES

- Everyone has motives.
- **Some desire what seems best for themselves no matter what it cost others.**
- **Jesus, on the journey to the cross, withstood false accusation, abandonment, and mockery because His motive was Glorifying God and saving us. What are our motives?**

FINISHED

- Jesus gave Himself as the sacrifice for sin.
- **He continued His journey on the cross, knowing the shame and pain He would experience there.**
- **It wasn't the betrayal, trial, or even the crucifixion that paid the price for our sins. It was Christ's perfect and holy life that was given as the final and complete sacrifice!**

SEEN

- Jesus' death was no secret.
- **After seeing His sacrifice, some stepped out to be seen as followers, no matter the cost.**
- **Knowing what we've done, we should see our need for a Savior. Knowing what He did for us, we should follow Him. Knowing what He is still doing, will we step out and be seen? What are we afraid of?**