

## Week 37

### Jesus Condemned

Today we begin the study of Chapter 19 of John's gospel. We closed last week as Pilate participated in a sorry excuse for a mock trial. Pilate had an opportunity to learn the truth about how to be saved but he turned his back on his Savior, and stated Jesus had done nothing deserving of death. Because he was a man who wanted to please men rather than do the right thing, and he lacked the courage we find him in the first verse of Chapter 19 sending Jesus to be scourged or flogged even though he had said there was no reason for punishment.

Before we begin our study let us pray; Father, thank you for this written word where we can learn all about Your Son Who said He is the living Word.

Help us understand what Jesus accomplished for us as He suffered and died the cruel death of crucifixion. I pray you will give those listening ears to hear, hearts to believe and faith. I claim Your promise that Your word accomplished what You send it to do and it never returns void canceled or annulled. In Jesus Name Amen.

John 19:1

Some translations use the word "flogged", it's all the same and if you saw THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST you have an idea what this meant.

Perhaps Pilate thought this would appease the Jews but not kill Jesus. He had just said that Jesus was innocent; can you imagine having him flogged anyway? This was ruthless but not intended to kill Him, although victims of this treatment often died. The whips were designed to do tremendous damage to the victim. The leather thongs of the whips embedded with pieces of metal and would wrap around the body, when they were pulled off they removed large amounts of skin and muscle.

John 19:2-3

The crown of thorns and the purple robe were to mock His claim to kingship. Matthew and Mark tell us they spit on Him. Listen to Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

Isaiah 52:14

Just as many were astonished at you, My People, so His appearance was marred more than any man.

John 19:4

This is the second time Pilate declared Jesus not guilty of any capital crime.

John 19:5

Imagine Jesus appearance at this time. He was bleeding from all the wounds they inflicted. Blood was running down His face from the thorns driven into His head, His beard had been pulled out. Was Pilate saying, "How can you imagine this person could be dangerous?"

And so Pilate made a statement, which will ring down through the ages, BEHOLD THE MAN. God will say this to you someday. The bible says the Jews will behold Him Who they pierced and they will mourn because of what they did to Him. Will you kneel before your Savior in submission because He is the Holy One or because you will be forced? Is this Man your Savior?

John 19:6-7

The Jews had been keeping this up for 3 to 4 hours and they were determined to have Jesus killed in the most humiliating and cruel way possible, crucifixion.

These were the men who said they were looking for their Messiah, the son of David, yet they were adamant that their Messiah be killed.

These man had so thoroughly rejected the light of God's truth for such a long time, their hearts were so hardened, they were so blinded they were beyond help. I urge you, if you hear His voice calling you today, do not turn away for fear this hardness of heart could come upon you. God will let you have your own way if you insist; no one goes to heaven against his will.

John 19:8-9

Will there be a time when Jesus will not talk to you? Pilate knew what was right but he was afraid to displease Jesus' accusers, he presided over the greatest crime ever because he was a coward. Character count, especially in leadership. This high official had no principles and no faith in God. We must pray that the men in leadership in our country have the courage to do what is right, not compromising with evil or doing wrong because they desire popularity or power. The bible says that God gives wicked leaders to a nation in judgment for their sin. This was certainly true for Israel at that time they were a corrupt nation.

John 19:10-11

Pilate had no authority over Jesus; Jesus was under God's authority. The one who handed Jesus over; some say this was Judas, some say it was Caiaphas. Actually Judas betrayed Jesus to the Jews; Caiaphas turned Jesus over to the Romans and his was the greater crime. For the High Priest of the Jews to turn over the Messiah for execution is beyond imagination. Whereas Pilate should have known better, Caiaphas turned away from the Light of the world to darkness. Notice Jesus said Caiaphas had greater sin but Pilate also sinned.

John 19:12

Again Pilate appealed to the Jews to let him set Jesus free but they were cunning, in a way they threatened Pilate. Notice they said Pilate was disloyal to Caesar if he let Jesus go. Do you see how the emotions are ramping up and it seems like Pilate can't think straight. He was in charge; he should have had the Jews arrested for causing a riot. He just wanted for this to be over, he did what was expedient rather than what was right.

John 19:13-16

Finally Pilate gave in to the Jews to have Jesus executed, so he handed Jesus over to the Romans. Since the Jews hated the Romans they never handed over their own people to Roman punishment but their hatred of Jesus was so great they wanted the Roman death for Him, crucifixion.

The Jewish people have been looking for a Messiah of their own creation. One who would give them all their hearts desired of material comfort, rule of their own land of Israel and freedom from trouble,

poverty or difficulty. How many of us want a God or Messiah who will do the same for us? What do the televangelists like tell us? We should be rich in material goods, we should have everything we want, we should never be sick or have any problems. If they give you biblical references for this they will have been taken out of context from the Old Testament. Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble". When fulfilling fleshly desire is your reason for seeking God you will be disappointed, you too will reject your Messiah if you expect Him to be what you have created in your own mind. There is one true God, He is who He is, remember, "I AM THAT I AM" He never said, He will be what you want Him to be.

#### John 19:17

Here is what John Ryle said about this passage; "Great must be the love of the Lord Jesus to sinners, when He could voluntarily endure such sufferings for their salvation. Great must be the sinfulness of sin, when such amounts of vicarious suffering was needed to provide redemption".

One part of the punishment of criminals was that they had to carry their own cross when they went to execution. Jesus was reckoned a sinner and counted a curse for our sake. Also it was fulfillment of the great type of sin offering of the Mosaic Law. Leviticus 16:27 says the bullock for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought to make atonement in the holy place, shall be carried out of the camp. Compare this with Hebrews 13:12 therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

What is a practical application of all this? Firstly, you should notice that all the events of Jesus life including the trial; the suffering the crucifixion had a type or prediction in the Old Testament. Secondly, going outside the camp represented separating from the people and is associated with the Hebrews in the wilderness who were forced to go outside the camp if they became infected with a contagious disease or due to some heinous sin. Application for us; we must come out of the world and be separate, and be willing if necessary to stand alone for Christ. Jesus told us that we needed to take up our cross daily. It's easy to wear a cross around your neck or put it up as a decoration in your house, but what about carrying your cross in your daily walk? Friends, a cross is a dying place, a place from which one never returns. For us to take up our cross entails self-denial. Is there some trial in your life that makes you want to walk away from your family, your marriage? This is where self-denial comes in, you promised God you would stay. Will you take up your cross?

#### John 19:18

Precisely where this was is not known but we do know it was outside the walls of Jerusalem. It must have been on a public road because Matthew tells of people passing by.

We know from the other gospels that the two on either side of Jesus were thieves. Putting Jesus between them was the last indignity; He was counted among the criminals. Of course it fulfilled Isaiah 53:12 He was numbered with the transgressors. Also it gave an opportunity for Jesus to perform one more miracle, converting the penitent thief, forgiving his sin and showing him the way to heaven. Three different men were crucified together; one was the Savior of sinners, one was a sinner about to be saved, the third was a sinner damned.

#### John 19:19

It was common practice to place a sign over the condemned. Jesus was clearly identified when He died so there was no swooning as some have said.

Why Pilate referred to Jesus as King is anybody's guess; maybe he wanted to annoy the Jews, however, anyone passing by could tell which one He was. Remember this sign was written in 3 languages; Latin, Greek and Hebrew so the gospel writers difference in recording what it said is understandable.

John 19:20

Another verse of John's commentary, an other eyewitness report, remember John saw all this. Matthew Henry said "in Hebrew the oracles of God were recorded; in Greek the learning of the philosophers; and in Latin the laws of the empire. In each of these languages Christ is proclaimed King.

John 19:21-22

So the Jews were unhappy with the sign and Pilate was not about to change it, he was finished taking orders from them.

John 19:23

Apparently the clothing of a criminal in that culture belonged to the executioner. All 4 of the gospels mention this dividing of the clothing.

John 19:24

They said this in fulfillment of Psalm 22:18.

John 19:25

John is the only one of the gospel writers who mentions the presence of the women at the cross. John was an eyewitness and remained there with Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary was older, probably 50 years or so at this time and here at the cross she learned the horrible truth of old Simeon's prophecy "a sword shall pierce your soul". What mother's soul would not be pierced to see her son in such a state?

John 19:26-27

And so Jesus did not forget His mother. Evidently his father was dead and we have already been told that His younger brothers were not believing so it seems the care of His mother would be left to John's. Imagine His kindness to His mother to be concerned about her at that time. He honored His mother according to the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment.

John 19:28-29

Again we have confirmation that all these events of the crucifixion of Jesus were planned and predicted. Why? Because they had a purpose and were planned from the foundation of the world. All the details of Jesus suffering were prophesied including the way the soldiers would treat His clothing, His thirst, His pierced side, the fact His bones would be unbroken, all a matter of design not a matter of coincidence.

John 19:30

"Tetelesai" in Greek, "it is finished". What was finished? No doubt much we don't know but this much we do know. All the suffering, which He came to endure as our Substitute, was finished, the ceremonial law of blood sacrifice was finished and the torn veil in the temple proved it. All the prophecies of his vicarious death and burial were finished.

We can rest our souls on this finished work of our Savior. We do not need to fear sin, Satan or law shall condemn us on the last day. Jesus paid it all. Paul said, "Who shall bring a charge against God's

elect? God is the One Who justifies; (puts us in right relationship) who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He Who died, yes; rather Who was raised, Who is at the right hand of God, Who also intercedes for us". Romans 8:33-34. We may feel ashamed at the poor quality of our finished work but when we look at the finished work of Jesus we can be at peace, we are "complete in Him" the bible says.

Luke describes how Jesus voluntarily yielded His Spirit to God saying; "Father into your hands I commit my Spirit" Luke 23:46 Jesus life was not taken from Him; He gave His life of His own free will. Jesus is sovereign over all, even His own death.

John 19:31-34

The Jewish leaders were concerned that the dead bodies would remain on the crosses during the Sabbath which began on Friday evening. This was a special Sabbath because it was the Passover Festival. Having the bodies of the 3 crucified Jews on the crosses overnight would desecrate their Sabbath. When a person was being crucified he could use his legs to lift up his body to take oxygen into his collapsing lungs. Breaking the legs would speed up the death.

Piercing with the spear made sure Jesus was dead. The outflow of blood and water means they pierced the pericardial sac and it certainly proves Jesus was human being and He did die.

Next time we will talk about two secret disciples of Jesus who came to take care of His burial. They both had feared persecution from the Jewish religious leaders, so they had not openly declared their faith in their Messiah. Friends, if you are trying to be a secret disciple of Jesus it just won't work. God will create moments along the way when those who are secret disciples will have to declare themselves. We will see how Joseph and Nicodemus finally stepped out in faith to declare their belief in Jesus.