



## ***The Crucified King*** (John 19:1-30)

Today we finally see the Lamb of God fulfill His mission as the Crucified King; and we are reminded what the Cross communicates: sin is serious, people are precious, & God is gracious.

### PRAY

\* All Scripture is from the CSB (Christian Stand Bible) unless otherwise noted.

**John 19:1** <sup>1</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

#### **Pilate...had Him flogged.**

The Romans used 3 forms of punishment increasing in severity:

(1) *fustigatio* (beaten & released), (2) *flagellatio* (flogging), and (3) *verberatio* (severe flogging, scourging).

\* Most scholars conclude that Jesus faced the most severe version, *verberatio*, using a whip with bone fragments or pieces of metal bound into the tips, causing the victim's body to be ripped open, often cutting muscle and sinew to the bone.<sup>1</sup>

Some died from scourging and normally flayed the victim to the bone (according to ancient writers like Eusebius, Josephus, and Cicero).<sup>2</sup> **Eusebius** (4th century Christian historian), preserves this description of a scourging from the second century:

*Those standing around were struck with amazement, at seeing them lacerated with scourges, to their very blood and arteries, so that no flesh concealed in the very inmost parts of the body, and the bowels themselves were exposed to view.*<sup>3</sup>

This kind of beating is likely the reason why the Romans forced another man to carry Jesus' cross part of the way (Matt 27:32) and why Jesus died much quicker than the other men (Jn 19:32-33).

**John 19:2-3** <sup>2</sup> The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on his head, and clothed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> And they kept coming up to him and saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and were slapping his face.

At this point, the pain of the **crown of thorns** and **slapping** likely paled in comparison to the flogging Jesus had already endured. The crown, robe, and the phrase, "Hail, King of the Jews!", all mocked Jesus as a 'king'. The **Synoptics** (Matthew, Mark & Luke) give us more insight into this physical & verbal abuse that went on that day.

**Mark 15:18-19** <sup>18</sup> And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> They were hitting him on the head with a stick and spitting on him. Getting down on their knees, they were paying him homage.

If what John has written from the very beginning is to be trusted, then Jesus is not just a good prophet, powerful teacher, and miracle worker; the Man being beaten and abused is God with skin on. The Creator of all is allowing His creation to abuse Him.

**John 19:4-7** <sup>4</sup> Pilate went outside again and said to them, "Look, I'm bringing him out to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging him." <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the temple servants saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate responded, "Take him and crucify him yourselves, since I find no grounds for charging him." <sup>7</sup> "We have a law," the Jews replied to him, "and according to that law **he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.**" <sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever.

What **law** would that be? They are following the Scriptural mandate for those who blasphemed Yahweh's name (by speaking evil of God or claiming to be God).

**Leviticus 24:16a** (LEB) And **he who blasphemes Yahweh's name** certainly shall be put to death; the whole community certainly shall **stone him**.

Claiming to be **the Son of God**, as Jesus did, was **blasphemous** - **claiming to be God**, which is why the chief priests said **he ought to die** (see Jn 5:18). But for a superstitious Roman like Pilate, who grew up with a belief in the mythical Greek gods and demigods (half-god/half-man), this '**Son of God**' claim was nothing to play around with.

<sup>1</sup> Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible First Edition; Bible*. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible (Biblical Studies Press, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> R. Kent Hughes, *John: That You May Believe, Preaching the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1999), 430-431.

<sup>3</sup> Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1955), 143.

\*Roman poet Ovid (who died in A.D. 17) wrote that the gods **Zeus and Hermes** once came to Lystra disguised as men, asking for food and lodging.<sup>4</sup> But when all refused them except one couple, they brought a flood that destroyed everyone else.<sup>5</sup>

Matthew's gospel tells us that Pilate's wife *had* warned him of a dream she had.

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**Matthew 27:19** <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judge's bench, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for today I've suffered terribly in a dream because of him."

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**John 19:9-11** <sup>9</sup> He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But **Jesus did not give him an answer**. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you and the authority to crucify you?" <sup>11</sup> "You would have no authority over me at all," Jesus answered him, "if it hadn't been given you from above. This is why the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

**"Where are you from?" But Jesus did not give him an answer.** Here we see Jesus play out the prophecy from Isaiah:

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**Isaiah 53:7** <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and **like a sheep silent before her shearers, he did not open his mouth.**

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**You would have no authority over me at all, if it hadn't been given you from above.**

Rulers, wicked or not, are only allowed to reign under God's authority (see Romans 13:1-5). God can take them out of power anytime He wants. Jesus is simply under Pilate's hand because it is the Father's plan.

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**Matthew 26:53** <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and he will provide me here and now with more than twelve legions of angels?

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**The one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.**

Jesus is most likely referring to the high priest, Caiaphas, who had just handed Jesus over to Pilate (Judas has disappeared from the story since the arrest in Jn.18:5). Pilate was in a predicament. He didn't want to kill Jesus, but his hand was being forced.

**John 19:12-16** <sup>12</sup> From that moment Pilate kept trying to release him. But the Jews shouted, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!" <sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's seat in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Aramaic, *Gabbatha*). <sup>14</sup> It was the preparation day for the **Passover**, and it was about noon. Then he told the Jews, "Here is your king!" <sup>15</sup> They shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! **Crucify him!**" Pilate said to them, "Should I crucify your king?" **"We have no king but Caesar!"** the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup> Then **he handed him over to be crucified**. Then they took Jesus away.

If Caesar even heard a rumor that Pilate **opposes Caesar**, he was a dead man. **Emperor Tiberius** had a firm reputation for eliminating his enemies swiftly.<sup>6</sup> And since **anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar**, what would Caesar do if he found out that Pilate allowed this counterfeit king (Jesus), to live?

The **Passover** Sabbath would begin at sundown. And now, the ONE to whom all Passover lambs pointed to, was about to be sacrificed.

**We have no king but Caesar!**

This Jewish leaders are handing over the long awaited sinless Messiah by pledging a false allegiance to the pagan emperor (even though they all expected and longed for the true Messiah to overthrow him). These liars would do whatever it took to get rid of Jesus.

**John 19:17-18** <sup>17</sup> Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called *Golgotha*. <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

Crucifixion was a brutal and often long death. After carrying the *patibulum* (horizontal bar that arms would be attached to), the victim's arms were stretched across the patibulum to be tied and sometimes, as in the case of Jesus, wrists **nailed to the beam**. "The cross-member was then hoisted up, along with the victim, and fastened to the vertical beam" that was already stuck in the ground.<sup>7</sup> The feet or ankles would then be tied or nailed. One

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<sup>4</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., *Acts, MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 326.

<sup>5</sup> Craig S. Keener, *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary & 2: Introduction and 1:1-14:28*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012-2013), 2146.

<sup>6</sup> Gary M. Burge, *John, The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 506.

<sup>7</sup> D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991), 608.

victim of crucifixion was found with a nail still stuck in the ankle, that had been hammered into the outside of the vertical beam. Contrary to many movie scenes, the crucified man's feet would not be far off the ground.

Jesus was **crucified**, nailed in both hands (wrists) and feet. And Pilate did something extra.

**John 19:19-24** <sup>19</sup> Pilate also had a sign made and put on the cross. It said: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. <sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" <sup>22</sup> Pilate replied, "What I have written, I have written." <sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: ***They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing.*** This is what the soldiers did.

### **They cast lots for my clothing.**

The Roman **soldiers** decided that Jesus' **tunic** (undergarment worn next to the skin) was worthy to keep. This likely means Jesus was naked on the cross. This also fulfilled a prophecy from **Psalm 22:18**, written 1,000 years before Jesus goes to the cross! The Romans didn't know they were playing into God's plan.

**John 19:25-27** <sup>25</sup> Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When **Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved** standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

Even near death, struggling for every breath, Jesus communicates His love and asks John, *THE WRITER OF THIS GOSPEL*, to take care of His mother. Now THAT'S a picture of family!

**John 19:28-30** <sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, he said, "I'm thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

And it was over. The *HOUR* Jesus had spoken of throughout this gospel was finally finished. Jesus drank the cup the Father had given Him and the mission was complete. Jesus then fulfills Psalm 69:21 about **sour wine**.

**Psalm 69:21** <sup>21</sup> They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me **sour wine** to drink.

Jesus cries out, **It is finished!** And although no one understood the significance of those words just yet, the payment for all people, for all time had been made! No more annual animal sacrifices were necessary. The Crucified King had taken the punishment and made the payment for his disciples and *his mother* (who had certainly sinned and needed the sacrifice of Jesus too! Of course, Jesus has done for us too (Is. 53:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:8), and once and for all...**It is Finished!**

***BIG TRUTH: Sin is Serious. People are Precious. God is Gracious.***

*Listen to how the writer of Hebrews explains it.*

**Hebrews 9:26b-28** <sup>26</sup> But now he has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, **for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of himself.** <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment—<sup>28</sup> so also Christ, having been **offered once to bear the sins of many**, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

If that DAY we TOday...are you confident that you have trusted Jesus? Here's a way you can know...are you on of **those who are waiting for Him?** You THINK about Jesus and what He has done for you, every day! You realize that you are *FORGIVEN* not because of WHO you are, **but because of WHOSE you are!**

***BIG TRUTH: Sin is Serious. People are Precious. God is Gracious.***

- 1) **STOP trusting your sinful heart and START following Jesus!** If you could be good enough then WHY did Jesus have to DIE? Bow your knee, turn from your sin, and FOLLOW Jesus with your life! **STOP living for the sin Jesus died to pay for and START living right!** *Simon Peter (the guy who denied Jesus 3 times) later wrote,*  
**1 Peter 2:24** <sup>24</sup> He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might **die to sin** and **live to righteousness**. By his wounds you have been healed.
- 2) **STOP being silent and START sharing what Jesus has done for the sake of others!** When's the last time YOU tried to share why Jesus died?

***BIG TRUTH: Sin is Serious. People are Precious. God is Gracious.***

- \* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives:** *Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What impacted you most from the teaching today?
2. **Read John 19:1-3 & Mark 15:18-19.** What thoughts or emotions does this stir within you? Go back and **read John 1:1-3, 14** (referring to Jesus) and then answer this: Who is it that these Romans are really abusing?
3. **Read John 19:7 & 5:18.** Why were the Jewish leaders asking Pilate to kill Jesus (what was Jesus claiming)? Jehovah's witnesses think "Son of God" means that Jesus is the first creation of "Jehovah" (a made-up word; God's Hebrew name is *Yahweh*). Why is incorrect to understand "Son of God" as God's first creation? To a Jewish person in Jesus' day, what did claiming to be "the Son of God" mean?
4. **Read John 19:23-24 & Ps. 22:18.** The pagan Roman soldiers likely didn't know Old Testament Scriptures. How does knowing that their actions were prophesied 1000 years before (Ps. 22:18)? Consider reading the entire chapter for more insights foretold.
5. **Read John 19:25-27.** What's does Jesus' care for His mother and John while hanging on a cross say about His heart for people?
6. How does the crucifixion of the King demonstrate that: ***Sin is Serious, People are Precious, and God is Gracious?***
7. **Read Hebrews 9:26b-28.** How does this passage encourage you?
8. **Read 1 Peter 2:24.** What is the expectation of those who have been forgiven? What would you say to the person who claims to be saved, but continues to live in sin?
9. God has been so gracious to us. Someone shared the GOOD NEWS with you. Who was that? Who have YOU shared Jesus with lately?
10. Pray for one another and check on each other this week.