

ICON

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



MESSAGE: ICON – Crown of Thorns (Suffering)

SPEAKER: Paul Basden **DATE:** March 28 & 29, 2020

Three things to focus on in the present:

Stay creative

Stay connected

Stay home AMAP

Then he [Pilate] released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:26-31, NIV)

A story of humans at their worst

Who were these soldiers?

What did they do?

Why did they do it?

A story of Jesus at his best

He practiced what he preached

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10, NIV)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.” (Matthew 5:38-39, NIV)

“I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:44-45, NIV)

He fulfilled an ominous Old Testament prophecy

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7, NIV)

He trusted God with his life

Jesus' constant posture before God was trust

A story of us and our questions

How can people be so evil?

Insights from G.K. Chesterton:

“Original sin is the only Christian doctrine that can be empirically proven.”

“The reality of sin can be seen on a lovely Sunday afternoon when bored and restless children start torturing the cat.”

Reporters: “What’s wrong with the world?”

Chesterton: “I am.”

“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts.” (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn)

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

Why did Jesus have to suffer?

“Why did Jesus have to die in order to forgive us? There was a debt to be paid – God himself paid it.

There was a penalty to be borne – God himself bore it. Forgiveness is always a form of costly suffering.”

(Tim Keller)

What am I supposed to do with this icon?

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Words and music by Isaac Watts, 1707

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God,
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood
See from his dead, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*



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and the graphic on Instagram.

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