

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 19:16b-27

Sermon notes – BK

March 15, 2026

We find ourselves again in John 19... Week 2 of 4 weeks in John 19...

As I have touched on...

It is important to not gloss over these difficult verses to *get to the resurrection*.

I have definitely felt led by the Lord to take time for this -

- There have been many of you that have mentioned just how meaningful it has been for you in your own journey.

LAST WEEK

- We covered the brutal details of the flogging of Jesus.
- There was an indescribable amount of physical pain Jesus went through
 - o Meant to drain the prisoner, so they would die quicker on the cross...
 - o Meant to humiliate
 - o Meant to bring any confession of guilt

BUT...

- Jesus' confession sealed His fate – He DID claim to be equal with God, the reason they were doing this!

- His death would be quicker, but not likely because of the flogging

You CANNOT humiliate the PERFECT ONE – AS I said last week –

How do you humiliate...

The Creator of the world?

The Perfect one,

- Without sin
- Without spot or wrinkle
- Without pride

Jesus, in His time on earth...

- Perfectly humble
- Perfectly obedient
- Perfectly... the Son of God...

This week in John 19... we move on to the next scene...

Let's PRAY and then we will READ this together...

John 19:16b-27

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ So the

chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

*“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”*

So the soldiers did these things,²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

As we unpack this... we will touch on some of the details of the other Gospels as well, to help us get a fuller picture.

- Remember these Gospels were written with specific audiences in mind...
 - **Matthew** – a Jewish audience... stressing Jesus as the promised Messiah.
 - **Mark** – a Roman audience... emphasizing Jesus as the suffering Servant.

- **Luke** – a Greek/Gentile audience... concentrating on Jesus as the Savior for all.
- **John** ... Presents to a widespread audience, all were in mind, emphasizing the Deity of Jesus – the Son of God.
- The Synoptics more on the WHAT of Jesus... John, more of the WHY

SO...

Here in John 19... Jesus is carrying His own cross, at least to begin with...

It would have most likely been just the cross-piece (the *patibulum*), as we commonly have seen...



The other three Gospels add in another detail...

They add that Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for the rest of the way

- *Matthew 27:32*, “...they found...”
- *Mark 15:21*, “...they compelled...”
- *Luke 23:26*, “...they seized...”

It is interesting how each of them worded this part a bit differently...

Mark listed the sons of Simon, Alexander and Rufus, probably because they became known in the early church... This could be the “Rufus” Paul mentions in Romans 16:13...

Maybe all that would be a deeper dive for you later!

Back to the text...

John 19:18

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

All three of the other Gospels include Jesus being crucified between ***“...two others...”***

- Matthew and Mark say they were robbers, and only say that they reviled Jesus with the others.

Luke puts it this way (likely a bit later in the account)...

Luke 29:39-43

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The *differing details are interesting...*

But, so are the SAME details interesting –

Jesus was the one in the middle

- Between **two sinners**
- Between **one who repented** and **one mocked**
- Between **Heaven** and **earth**
- Between **life** and **death**
- Between **God** and **man**

**Jesus... the second person of Trinity...
... Jesus understands**

Paul writes...

1 Timothy 2:5-6

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

**It was no accident that Jesus “got the middle seat.”
That is where He works**

Have you ever wondered why they had a cross ready for Jesus?

There were **three crosses** already **set for execution...**

Who was the other cross meant for?

Could it be it was meant for Barabbas?

It is powerful to think (speculation of course!)

We DO know...

- Jesus took the place for the one who was deserving the punishment coming to him (by Roman law)
- *Could be... Jesus took the (actual) cross meant for Barabbas*

Do you remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3... verse 16?

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Jesus took the cross meant for Barabbas... the cross that was meant for us.

The crucifixion of Jesus –

- To be clear, it would have been through the wrist or forearm that Jesus would have been nailed
- His feet, either on top of each other, or separately... there was often a small board for them to push up on, but it was intended only to prolong the display...

Apparently, it was the Persians who invented crucifixion

That said, the Romans perfected it and made it their convention.

Crucifixion was the form of execution reserved for the worst criminals and the lowest classes.

Designed to make the victim die slowly, with great pain and humiliation in public.

Roman crucifixion was the worst of the worst ways to die...

This was the form of death Jesus willingly obeyed God to do.

- Jesus prophesied it would happen to Him
- God ordained for Jesus to die, and the death that He submitted to in the will of God.

¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

The Synoptics say similar things but a bit different...

I favor the wording of John, because he was standing right there.

My guess is that this sign burned in a memory John would never forget...

John 19:20

²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.

The other two hanging on a cross would have had signs describing the crime they had done...

The sign above Jesus, pointed to who He was...

Symbolic as well that He had done nothing wrong.

The religious leaders didn't like the wording; it put them in a bad place... they were trying to name a wrong...

John 19:21b-22

"...the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"

But Pilate was done playing their game...

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

A sign... hung by a Roman ruler... proclaiming the truth of who Jesus was and is – for us to have record of... to this day.

John 19:23-24

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see

whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

***“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”***

So the soldiers did these things,

John includes this here to help us to see yet again...

This casting lots was no accident...

**It all points to Jesus AS the Son of God... the
Messiah**

This was part of Psalm 22... Lets look at a few more verses here –

Psalm 22:16-18

For dogs encompass me;

a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet –

¹⁷ I can count all my bones—

they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

These are powerfully prophetic words written that Jesus fulfilled...

Jesus fulfilled a lot of prophetic words...

- **The odds of Jesus fulfilling the number of prophecies**
- **He did in His lifetime are absolutely impossible...
unless Jesus is the real deal...**

You may have heard that Jesus has fulfilled over 300 prophecies in the years he was here on earth.

- It has been acknowledged that some of those were pretty loosely associated.**

Years ago, there was a study done of the odds of Jesus fulfilling just 8 prophecies by Peter Stoner.

- 1) Born in Bethlehem**
- 2) A Messenger would prepare the way**
- 3) He would enter Jerusalem as king, riding on a donkey**
- 4) He would be betrayed by a friend**
- 5) He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver**
- 6) The betrayal money would be used to buy a potter's field**
- 7) He would be silent before His accusers**
- 8) His hands and feet would be pierced**

This one here in John 19:24 is not even listed, nor many others.

What are the odds of just 8 prophecies from hundreds of years before, being fulfilled of one person in his lifetime?

10^{17} – 100,000,000,000,000,000 (one quadrillion)

Odds of winning the lottery? 1 in 300,000,000

Not sure John was taking it all in like that, but the more we dig... the further Jesus is proven to be who He said He was...

Let's get back to the text, as we cover the last verses for the day...

John 19:25-27

²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

We do not know who all was at the cross...

- The women listed, starting with Jesus' mother, Mary
- John

Jesus did not have to give any more direction to John than he did. John knew what to do.

Jesus emulates here the importance of the 4th Commandment of the 10 Commandments –

Deuteronomy 5:16a

"Honor thy father and mother..."

What a powerful exchange we have here

- Jesus making sure His mother is taken care of
- John, without hesitation carries out the wishes of Jesus

Honoring your father and mother does not have an expiration date.

Jesus cared for His mother... even to His last breath.

(And... He will see her again! But that will not be for a bit!)

There is no credible debate why Jesus was crucified.

Jesus claimed to be equal with God...

John made that clear earlier...

Jesus was crucified for it.

Last week, we pointed out what Jesus said to this effect in John 5:18, and in 10:33

Jesus was guilty as charged... BECAUSE IT WAS TRUE!

While these verses are difficult to pause THIS long for... it is important for the development of our faith.

That we may believe

John 1:9-13

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name...”

Jesus went through all of this, so that we could have solidity to our faith....

- Not faith in a church
- Not faith in tradition

Faith in the One who went to the cross...

- So that God’s righteous requirement would be fully satisfied.
- That we may confess, be forgiven and restored
- That we may have true and eternal life.