

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 19:28-37

Sermon notes – BK

March 22, 2026

We are in week 3 of 4 weeks in John 19...

This has been so insightful for me, I hope it has been for you as well.

LAST WEEK

- We covered the beginning of the crucifixion of Jesus.
- This horrible way to die, is the way God chose...
 - To expose the worst of humanity
 - To display God's willingness to go to the utmost to save...

THIS is what Jesus went through for us...

Here is a little more to add in for this passage...

Excruciating – The word literally comes from the Roman practice of crucifixion.

One source said (Grok) –

"In essence, "excruciating" literally evokes pain "from/out of the cross" – a reference to the horrific suffering of crucifixion, which the Romans reserved for the worst criminals and slaves. It was so uniquely severe that the

language borrowed from it to describe the highest level of torment.”

So, next time you hear the word “excruciating” used... you can know it is not likely THAT bad...

HOEVER... This is how Jesus died...

- Fulfilling all that was required to the extreme
- Man withheld nothing to kill the one who came to save...

This gives a deeper meaning to the prophesy of Isaiah 53...

Isaiah 53:4-6

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

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned— every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Yes, it was the Lord’s will, it was the only way...

BUT – The crucifixion of Jesus also...

- Exposed what “religion” is willing to do, to get (even godly) opposition out of the way

- Made clear who/what we are...

Jeremiah 17:9

***The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?***

PAUSE

John 19:18

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

Remember...

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**

1 Timothy 2:5b

there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

We read last week...

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

Though the Jews tried to fight it, and have Pilate change it into an accusation, “*He claimed...*” Pilate refused...

We also saw last week...

Even from the cross, Jesus made sure His mother was cared for properly...

PAUSE...

Now, we come John 19:28-37...

John 19:28-37

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷ And again another

Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished...”

In support of John’s affirming of Jesus as God, the Son, John makes it clear...

Jesus is in control

“...knowing...” – In the perfect, active form

- Jesus knew completely and fully

“...that all was now finished...” (each/any/everything, individually and collectively)

It was FINISHED...

- The betrayal
- The beating
- The flogging
- The crucifixion
- The punishment for our sin...

was now... *finished* –

Jesus completed “all righteousness” – This was first mentioned...

Matthew 3:14-15

¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”

This is what Paul was talking about in Romans...

Romans 5:18-19

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew and Mark tell us Jesus proclaimed,

Mark 15:34b

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

From Psalm 22 (From my Bible)

Luke 23:46a

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”

John is the only one who mentions Jesus saying, *“I thirst”*****

- John's purpose is to include *other* details (as an eyewitness) that continue to affirm who Jesus is, and the prophetic words He fulfilled.
- John includes places Jesus fulfilled Scripture far more than the other Gospels...

Psalm 69:21

***They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.***

Jesus receiving drink would also make sense... at this point, there would be no way to speak loudly without it... This “sour wine” was not the stuff offered earlier (in the other gospels) that Jesus refused. That had “gall” – a type of pain-killer in it.

This sour wine was what the guards would drink –

- Watered-down
- Sour... wine

Interesting they lifted it up on a hyssop branch...

Where else do we see the hyssop branch?

Exodus 12:22

Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.

- Spread the blood of the lamb for the first Passover
- Lifted the last sip to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

It is finished –

This was no whimper – this was a proclamation...

“tetelestai” in the ancient Greek

Different translations have this in the emphatic...

“It is finished!”

This was a cry of victory, of completing all that was needed – It was Accomplished!

- **The prophecies and promises were finished!**
- **The fulfilment of the righteous requirement was finished!**
- **The sacrifices for forgiveness were finished!**
- **Jesus’ perfect obedience was finished!**
- **The satisfaction of God’s justice was finished!**
- **The power of Satan and his schemes, sin and death were finished!**

ALL of this was accomplished and the “power of death” was defeated...

“It is finished!”

“...and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

Jesus bowed His head in peace... and as the one in control –

“...gave up his spirit.”

**They did not take His life, He willingly gave it...
John recorded earlier, Jesus saying –**

John 10:14-18

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

God the Son was in complete control.

John 19:31

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

Is this not the “face of religion”?

Not long before this, Jesus proclaimed they were “white-washed tombs” – nice on the outside, but full of dead-man’s bones... Matt. 23:27

SO – the soldiers broke the legs of the two crucified with Jesus...

But when they came to Jesus, they saw He was already dead.

John 19:34

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

The Roman soldiers knew death... Jesus was dead.

This is important, because there were those (Early Christian Gnostics) who denied that Jesus died.

Today, Muslims deny Jesus died on a cross.

The Quran (Surah 4:157–158) states: "They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it was made to appear so to them... Nay, Allah raised him up to Himself."

John refuted this with his own (credible) testimony...

John 19:35

³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe

John affirms this with the fulfillment of two more prophecies as well

One from Psalm 34:20 (no broken bones)

The other from Zech. 12:10 (look on him who they pierced)

What does this do for your own faith today?

How will you respond?

Will you choose to honor Him in what you say and do?

OR...

Will you acknowledge this, but still do what you want?

John wrote of this to help us grow in our faith,

“...that you also may believe”

Last week’s letter had a little musing... speculating that Jesus took the cross that Barabbas should have died on.

Barabbas, the one released instead of Jesus

Again, none of the Gospels make this claim... but to stands to reason that this would be the case... So I wrote this...

The Barabbas-Beam

Jesus, You bore the Barabbas-beam – the cross for him, was the cross for me. He’s the one who should've died that day; You took his place, so we could be saved. In this act, you made a way, that one like Barabbas and me could be saved.

You took the nails that nailed You down. You bore a nasty, painful crown. You bore the full weight of our sin, the blood required, so we could begin... to hope of life beyond this place – instead of a cross, amazing grace. We look only to You, who bore the Barabbas-cross – You alone could satisfy the cost.

You alone, the spotless lamb – You make a way for us still – all part of Your plan. Here we stand, God's justice satisfied, from the sins we sinned and the lies we've lied. Here we live, lives surrendered to You, the Barabbas-beam bearer, in all we do.

We pause to worship and take Communion as a reminder of this amazing act Jesus did –

- To satisfy God's righteous requirement**
- To provide a means for our forgiveness and relationship with Jesus.**