

The Valley of the Shadow of Death

John 19:6-30

vs. 6-8, Enough has been done concerning this man.

He ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

Pilate is “more afraid than ever”.

Why?

Rome existed in the pantheon of gods.

vs. 9, Where are you from?

The pressure of power -> I have the authority (**vs. 10**).

Is it his authority that is at play?

vs. 11, The only authority you have has been given you from above.

- Jesus speaks clearly concerning the rule of states and empires. They remain under the ultimate authority of the one true God.

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

- The very people who are supposed to be representing God to the people have abandoned truth for selfish gain.

vs. 12, If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend.

Are you really willing to forfeit your career and your future prosperity over this man? Give us what we want.

Two key things are at play.

1. Judaism enjoyed special accommodations and favoritism throughout the Roman Empire.
2. Provinces and cities to appeal to Rome concerning injustices which took place from their governor. The Emperor would often make changes to leadership in favor of the people.

vs. 13-16, Pilot gives the people what they want.

Here is your king!

Should I crucify your king?

We have no king but Caesar!

Blatant, rebellious idolatry.

The religious leaders in order to accomplish their selfish purposes happily choose Empire over Kingdom.

In light of this history and this promise given by God, the official representatives of Judaism declare, “We have no king but Caesar!”

- The OT describes God as the true king, and the promise of the coming Messiah as the true king.
- The Prophets continued to speak against idolatry. What would Isaiah have said to the chief priests (Isaiah 44)?
- It is devastating to witness the hypocrisy!

Deeply Revealing Contrast (Johannine Irony)

During Passover Psalms 113-118 would have been sung as part of service in the Temple. Psalm 136 would often be the final Psalm sung. (Read these Psalms and try and reconcile the words of the chief priests).

Question: To whom does our flesh most lean?

Pilate - worried more about his status and future and therefore susceptible to manipulation and dangerous compromise?

Chief Priests - using whatever tactic necessary to gain the upper hand (political, religious, wealth, influence) maintain and be seen as in control?

Jesus - resolved to follow God and reflect his love no matter the circumstances, not avoiding or compromising while engaging a deeply broken world?

vs. 16-24, Jesus is crucified.

What are the **details** that John shares.

- Jesus carrying the cross by himself (he is in control, he is walking the path toward the forgiveness of sin). vs. 17
- A sign is made which says, Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews. It was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. (Jesus is the Messiah to the world).
- The soldiers divided his clothes (In fulfillment of scripture, Psalm 22:18. This event isn't simply a string of coincidences).

vs. 25-27, More details

When Jesus is speaking to Mary, "This is your son, this is your mother." Jesus is doing something theologically significant. It is in reference to the prologue 1:12.

Jesus preferred to trust the care of his believing mother with a disciple rather than with his unbelieving brothers.

Mary was not only Jesus' mother. She was also his disciple. Jesus is deeply caring for his mom both practically and spiritually.

vs. 28-29, I'm thirsty.

John 4:14 But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

John 6:35 "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again."

John 7:37-38 On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. **38** The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."

What is the **detail** that John wants us to see?

- The humanity and suffering of Jesus.
- In order for Jesus to accomplish what he been sent to accomplish he must be one of us. He too must experience thirst, shame, and death. **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Scripture once again is fulfilled. **Psalm 69:21** Instead, they gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
- Jesus takes the ordinary and transforms it into the very best (water into wine) in a world that continues to only offer the worst (sour wine / vinegar).

They give him sour wine on a hyssop branch (not a reed, but hyssop).

If you know you know...more **details**.

John is connecting Jesus, the lamb of God with the very first passover. God acts on behalf of humanity.

- "Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood in the basin" (Exodus 12:22).

vs. 30, It is finished. He gave up his spirit.

Jesus makes the decision to die.

John 17:1-5

- Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.
- This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent - Jesus Christ.
- I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do.
- Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

Remember: Honor / Glory is accomplished in the last place the world would expect it. The cross displays the love and compassion the Father (God) has for human beings. The point is eternal life!

Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy.

Jesus is the righteous sufferer.

Jesus is the true King.

Jesus is the one that once and for all deals with the curse of sin.

Jesus is the one who redeems the world and inaugurates new creation.