The Blood Made Flesh: A Study in John

The Heart of the Cross

Seven Sayings and the Heart of the Second

John 19

The Cross

Written in *John Chapter 19*, which is all about the crucifixion of Jesus. It focuses on the events associated with the cross. As I was praying and preparing for the message, I kept thinking about how often we see the cross today. The cross is one of the most popular symbols for jewelry. It is one of the ten most popular symbols for tattoos. The world is happy to wear the cross on the outside, but reluctant to let the cross transform the inside.

When I say the cross, what does it mean to you? The Old Testament contains roughly three hundred prophecies about Jesus, and thirty of them were fulfilled in the events of the cross. Beyond the thirty pieces of silver. His silence in His accusers. The way He was mocked. Soldiers casting lots for His garments. Being offered vinegar and gall. Pierced with a spear. Bones not to be broken. Buried in a rich man's tomb. To name a few.

The cross shows us what the judgment of God is real, that the punishment for sin is real, and that the love of God is real.

> *"The world is happy to wear the Cross on the outside, but reluctant to let the Cross transform the inside."*

What the Cross Shows Us

Three realities meet at the cross. Hold them together, because each one alone is incomplete.

John 19:1–3 (NKJV)

> Sin earns death.
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> "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Earthly man God will judge every one according to his ways (Ezekiel 18:30). James warns that desire conceives, and sin fully grows brings forth death (James 1:15).

God does not overlook rebellion.

Pud tells the Christendom that the Lord will return "in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (2 Thessalonians 1:8). He downplays this is witnessed the cross.

John 19:4–6

> And the love is greater still.
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> "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Lamb Worthy to Judge

Revelation 4 and 5 give a sweeping description of the throne room of heaven, and all the world which we come, and even the strong angel, could open. The only one worthy to open the scroll, to carry out judgment on the world, to bring restoration to the world, and to reign over the world, was "a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain."

Christ is the judge of man. The One who died to save the world knows more than anyone else what it means for the world to be saved. The One who knows Jesus as the world's Savior is the only one who knows what it means for the world to be judge the world. He died for on the cross. Mercy and justice meet in the same Lamb.

With this here in place, let us turn to the text. We are going to focus on the people who were at the cross, and the words spoken by Jesus on the cross.

John 19:17–18 (NKJV)

> "They crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on this side and another on that side, and Jesus in the midst." Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. It was written, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. 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.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."
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> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier, and also his tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
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> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.
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> After this, knowing that all was now finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst!" he said, "I thirst!" A vessel was there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Four at the Cross

Chapter 19 briefly mentions four people by name standing near the cross. Each one shows us something different about what the cross is for.

1. **Mary, the mother of Jesus**
   The Cross as place of adoration

   Before the birth of Jesus, Mary was visited by the angel Gabriel. She was told what would happen, and she "pondered these things in her heart." She watched Jesus grow in favor with God and man. She was there for His first miracle at Cana. And now she finds herself, they dare not call it, standing beside the cross of her son. Luke 2 recounts the attention she is giving. This point of seeing Jesus. The cross is a place of adoration.

2. **Mary, the wife of Clopas**
   The Cross as place for the witness

   Because her name was also Mary, scholars do not believe she was a local blood sister, but a close friend of Mary the mother (this calling someone "Sister"). Others suggest her husband Clopas was a brother or relative of Joseph. The fact that we do not know because this is the only time she is mentioned in the New Testament. The other Gospel writers do not name her. The cross is a place for the rejected, the overlooked, the only mentioned once.

3. **Mary Magdalene**
   The Cross as place of deliverance

   She carried the shame of being demon possessed before Jesus set her free. From that day forward she was a faithful follower, mentioned twelve times in the New Testament, more than most of the disciples. The cross is a place of redemption. When Jesus raised her from an the beginning, this gave her to fall at the cross.

4. **John, the disciple whom He loved**
   The Cross as place of responsibility

   John refers to himself this way six times. Only he was the phrase, John was delighted that the love he received from Jesus. Power was defined by what he would do for Jesus. Notice who stands to the cross. From the cross Jesus looks down at John, and says, "Behold, your mother." The cross is a place of responsibility. Receiving the love of Jesus comes with carrying the people of Jesus. From a the foot of Mary cares not to be cancelled for us to, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

> *"If you want to find out what is inside something, put pressure on it."*

The Seven Sayings

On the cross Jesus made seven statements. Four of them are recorded in John. There is a saying *if you want to find what is inside something, put pressure on it*. Jesus and the same thing about the human heart. "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45).

If the throne room of heaven is impossible to describe or comprehend, what is, then what Jesus sacrificed and experienced on the cross is just as incomprehensible. And under that weight of pressure, what came out of His mouth reveals everything. When Jesus says on the cross calls us who Jesus is, and what Jesus desires.

1. *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*
   The Cross as place of mercy

   Anyone have a hard time forgiving? This pain forgiveness is a sore light. Why did Jesus have this, John 3:16, so that He, did, so that, who, he, did? Hanging on the cross, Jesus does not say *Father, judge them. Father, punish them. No*, he says, "Forgive, good, and is planning to the right of God sit on Jesus, who, shows, of grace, to the sound and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:3–4). "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some reckon slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (Peter 3:9). Revelation 19 tells us how his will return. Yes, He will judge. Yes, every knee will bow. But the cross tells us His desire is to save.

2. *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*
   The Cross as place of hope

   The cross is where God's love is on display. His love is seen in Jesus paying the price for our sins, and also His warning is relationship with us in grip of these sins. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to save the world. Jesus, Christ, Savior, Lord, is crucified in the image of Gomer. Lily, and Jesus is Hosea's the image of God's. (Genesis 1:15). A special word spoken to the World of Faith cover of reaches like Jesus, Moses, Rahab, Ruth, Gideon, Gideon, and Kenneth Copeland. so we can hope, Jesus, He, can, overcome created in the image of God is that we should have a relationship with God, and have fellowship with God.

3. *"Woman, behold your son!" "Behold, your mother."*
   The Cross as place of relationship

   Yes, we live with eternity in mind. Yes, our treasure is in heaven. But that does not mean we are to make our way through right now is unimportant is Jesus. "You have kept your word to your servant, O Lord, according to your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I have believed your commandments" (Psalm 119:65–66).

   "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
   The Cross as place of intimacy

   Jesus appreciates the weight of our sin, the punishment for our sin, the consequence of our sin. The Father turns His face from His Son so that the Father would never have to turn His face from us.

4. *"I thirst."*
   The Cross as place of longing

   It is out of this place of physical exhaustion that Jesus declares His thirst. The Scripture speaks of this cross, coupled with the physical pain He was feeling, need him, stained, tainted, dehydration. Jesus speaks of this cross thirst out of a total human need for sustenance and relief. On the cross, Jesus is physically thirsty. He knows everything because of His divinity, He is God, all-knowing. And He knows everything because of His humanity. There's nothing you could go through, or feel, that Jesus has not faced. And He delivered perfectly.

5. *"It is finished."*
   The Cross as place of completion

   "Be merciful, O God, for we will rely on you. In the shadow of your wings we will take our refuge, until these calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57:1). "If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:9). And you "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). With the cross we can say the cross. The cross produces works.

6. *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."*
   The Cross as place of surrender

   We are to trust God with our lives. No matter what happens to our temporary bodies, no matter what the world does to us, our spirit belongs to God. The cross is a beautiful reminder that we are to be led by the Spirit. "For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" (Romans 8:14). And empowered by the Spirit. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

The Heart of the Cross

Seven sayings. Seven windows into the heart of the Savior. He desires to save us. He desires to be with us. He desires to look after us. He desires to suffer for us. His desires to identify with us. His desires that we rely on what He has done. His desires to be our sample.

The cross is not just where Jesus died for our sins. It is where He told us who He is. It is where He told us what He wants. The world wants us in the outside. He invites us to transform the inside.