

John 19:17-42 – 6 September 2026

“Even In Death...He Is”

Introduction

- *Jesus has been arrested and tried by men
- *Today, from top to bottom, we look at the cross
- *That final and ultimate act that secured our chance to be saved and enter the presence of God Almighty
- *The character of Christ didn't fail in any way as He entered the last few hours of His earthly life
 - *His love, humility, justice, truth and peace all remain intact during the most difficult time
- *As we enter into this dark hour, let's reflect on the character qualities Christ showed us
 - *So we too can live out His life thru ours

Today we see 3 characteristics that Jesus displayed at His death

#1 – Selflessness: Others Over Ourselves (19:17-27)

Read 19:17-18

1. By this time Jesus has been flogged & is so weak they compelled Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross part of the way there
2. It's 9am when they first pin Him there between two men that are deserving of death
 - a. The One that taught us to follow Him (Read Matt 16:24) to deny ourselves & take up our cross, is now literally doing it to the nth degree
3. Luke records the *1st of 7 statements* Jesus makes at this time & that's "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"

Read 19:19-22

1. It was Roman custom to write the crime on the placard for all to read and heed
 - a. Jesus's crime to them was His very identity
 - b. He *is* the King of the Jews, they simply don't believe it

2. Romans wanted crucifixion to be very public
 - a. As it was, this actually aided Christianity in coming to life after the resurrection, b/c many more had the proof that Jesus actually died
3. Jews were mortally embarrassed by the sign
 - a. To them it was inaccurate
 - b. To us & in reality it was perfectly accurate

Read 19:23-24

1. This dividing of His clothes is in fulfillment of Psm 22:18, but it shows His humiliation
 - a. Clothes represent your holiness & authority
 - b. To be stripped shows a part of Him becoming sin for us (Read II Cor 5:21)
2. Jesus offers to give us clothes of righteousness, but they can't be stolen or taken such as this
3. Dividing some & then casting dice for the other is a very specific fulfillment of ancient prophecy
 - a. All the unbelievers in the scene think they're acting independently & they are, but

God already foreknow *exactly* how it would go
(Read Act 2:23)

4. At this time, as the one thief expresses faith in Jesus, Jesus says His *2nd of 7 statements* to that thief, “Today you’ll be with Me in paradise”

Read 19:25-27

1. W/ Jesus’s *3rd of 7 statements* He lovingly finishes His responsibility for His widowed Mom
 - a. We’re to honor our parents until death
 - b. We’re to take care of the widows
2. What’s interesting is that Jesus had younger brothers & sisters, Mary’s other children (Matt 13:55) but they weren’t believers in Messiah (yet)
 - a. So, Jesus gave Mary to John not to them
 - b. To care for someone is to care for them physically, mentally and spiritually – John could do all that
3. John gets this blessing b/c he stayed close to Jesus

#2 – Commitment: Complete The Calling (19:28-30)

Read 19:28-29

1. “After this” indicates that some time has passed – it’s now 3pm – the final moments
 - a. Darkness has covered the land for 3 hours
2. What prompted this *5th of 7 statements* is Jesus’ *4th statement* “My God, My God” (Psm 22)
 - a. When it’s said that some misunderstood & thought He was calling for Elijah
 - b. Therefore, they got a sponge w/ vinegar to give Him this fulfilling (Read) Psm 69:21
 - c. When Jesus saw them fulfilling this prophecy He acknowledged it with “I thirst”

Read 19:30a

1. Tetelestai – it is *complete* or *paid in full*
 - a. This is the *6th statement*
 - b. Jesus didn’t give you eternal life with a mortgage that you have to make the payments
 - c. He gave you eternal life with a fully paid off title deed

2. The work of giving us the option to return into the presence of God has been completed
 - a. All that's left is to believe it

Read 19:30b

1. Having said, “Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit” (*7th & final statement*) He allowed Himself to die & depart
2. At this time many miraculous events happen
 - a. Veil in Temple torn top to bottom
 - b. Earthquake
 - c. People come out from graves into city
 - d. Centurion declared this was the Son of God

#3 – Power: Prove The Point By Living Out Prophecy (19:31-42)

Read 19:31-32

1. Romans often left the crucified there for days as a reminder to the passersby

- a. Jews didn't want *public dead men* to pollute their holiday asking for a quick end & clean up
 - b. The problem was the *private dead man* that was still inside of them
 - c. Dead men often wear religious garments
2. Breaking the legs would speed up the suffocating process
- a. Whether breaking legs was gracious or maybe worse isn't the point
 - b. The point is that it's used as a proof that Jesus was already dead – read on

Read 19:33-34

- 1. Thus, making the 7th place Jesus would bleed from (Head, hands, feet, back, & side)
- 2. Blood & water indicates severe trauma or that His blood had already begun to coagulate
 - a. But certainly, it shows He's already dead

Read 19:35-37

- 1. John recorded these things as an eyewitness for the specific purpose of us coming to believe

- a. We can believe that Jesus fulfilled the OT Scriptures of the Messiah's *1st coming* (Not a bone will be broken – Exo 12:46)
- b. We can believe that Jesus fulfilled the OT Scriptures of the Messiah's *2nd coming* (Look on the pierced One – Zec 12:10)
2. Man's plan was for Him to die of suffocation; Jesus's plan was to dismiss His own spirit so He'd have no broken bones and a pierced side

Read 19:38

1. Joseph was rich and on the Sanhedrin Counsel
 - a. He was a disciple of Christ's but privately
 - b. Luke tells us he disagreed at the vote to condemn Jesus
 - c. Read Mark 15:43 – “Got up the courage”
2. Pilate was surprised Jesus was dead already but granted the body to Joseph

Read 19:39

1. This is 3rd & final recorded mention of Nico

- a. John 3 - seen *inquiring* of Jesus by night
- b. John 7 - seen *defending* Jesus in Sanhedrin
- c. John 19 - seen *worshipping* Jesus at His death

Read 19:40-42

- 1. It's recorded that this was Joseph's tomb
- 2. This is done to fulfill the prophecy that Jesus would be buried w/ the rich in His death (Isa 53:9)

Conclusion

So, as it was for Christ Jesus, so it is for us – Let us live out the character of Christ within us

Jesus told us to pick up *our* cross & follow Him daily

Only Jesus can save the world, but we should be His examples by following Him and living like Him

- 1. **Selflessness: Do we serve others over Ourselves?**
- 2. **Commitment: Will we complete our calling?**
- 3. **Power: Are we proving our point by living the way a Chrisitan is prophesied to live?**