

WK 11

Call to Worship

Psalm 47.

Prayer.

Hymn 1. Battle Hymn of the Republic

Hymn 2. To God Be the Glory.

Isaiah 53:10-12

Prayer

Hymn 3. Majesty.

Hymn 4. All Hail the Power.

Hymn 5. You Are My All in All.

Offering.

Pastoral Prayer.

Sermon Text. John 19:31-42 | The Memorial of Jesus Christ.

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

So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him;

But coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN."

And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.

Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.

So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Intro.

Memorials.

The loss of life.

Life is fragile. Life is precious. And somewhere, deep in us, we recognize the variability of human life.

Deep inside, it scares us the possible harms of human life. As a result, we search out for things that will protect us and keep us from those dangers.

We live in an age of scientific and medical increases, so we search for the opportunity to extend our life. We look for a way to avoid our own memorial service.

I would tell you, don't worry about your own memorial service because in truth, you will not even be present for it!

**'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord'
'it is appointed unto man once to die, and then the judgment'**

Friends, we are looking today at a memorial. The death of Jesus Christ, the treatment of His human body and the exploring, what has happened to the spiritual body.

There have been vast increasing in life-extension procedures. Many people will spend much money to extend their life.

There was a study done, years ago now, by an Ivy League school, that did a survey on life extension. They did an analysis of every major disease that people die from. Heart disease. Cancer. Diabetes. And did a survey of life extension, if every major disease were to be taken away, what would the result be?

The analysis gleaned that the average life expectancy would only be extended by 3.5 years.

'What man can live and not see death?' Ps. 89:48

'Man is born of woman, is short-lived, and his life is full of turmoil', Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.' Job 14:1-2

'As surely as the sparks fly upward, man is inclined to trouble' Job

There was the wise woman from Tekoa that approached King David stating

'We shall surely die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again' 2 Sam. 14:14

The wise preacher of Ecclesiastes stated

'Just as there is a time to be born, so also there is a time to die' Ecc. 3:2

God has appointed our birth and has appointed our death. Frankly there is nothing you and I can do about our beginning and our ending, but there is something we can do about our outlook on both.

Moses notes the frailty and finality of human life in Psalm 90 by stating 'As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away' Ps. 90:10

Moses witnessed many memorials. Moses watched the life of many people pass away.

One of the difficulties with memorials is the memories. Memorials and memories go hand in hand.

Holding onto memories, honoring memories, maintaining legacies, this is the stuff real memorials are made of!

Making an effort to evade death is fruitless. It is better for us to have confidence in what will happen after death, then make needless efforts to an evitable result.

I must emphasize here that you and I will die. We must do something about this! We must decide.

'Behold, today is the accepted hour'

As a preacher of righteousness, I must proclaim to you and inform to you that the Angel of Death is in the world today and you need not fear Him. And just as the Israelites put the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts, so you can have confidence that the Grim Reaper in the harsh sense, and when you are visited with death it will not be the Grim Reaper BUT the Grace Reaper, and we will go rejoicing bringing in the sheaves!

Isaiah 40:6 '-7 'What shall I call out? All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.'

James 1:10 'the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like the flowering grass he will pass away'

Death is hard. It is a topic that is heartily avoided. And the longer you live the more death you see or the more you avoid the topic.

I'm here to say, it is not something that you need to ignore or avoid. And even so, you do well to become comfortable with the topic.

As I taught last week, Christian's do not actually die. I know for some this is difficult to fathom and embrace but it is a truth of Christianity. We do not die.

Christians have eternal life.

John 6 'Where would we go you have the words of eternal life'

'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain' Paul

'entrust your soul to a faithful Creator' – Peter, 1 Pet. 4

Jesus made it very clear that He wanted everyone to understand that He was the access point to eternal life.

John 8:51 'Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.'

Keeping Christ's word is a matter of obedience. Seeing is a matter of faith. Faith and obedience are matters of living in Union with Christ.

We have this Eternal life by Union with Christ and Union with Christ is first gained through Faith.

You must believe. It's not even a suggestion, it is a commandment. Believing in Christ is a command by Christ, and is explained by the Apostles.

John writes that believing in Christ is the very point he wrote the Gospel in John 20:31. To not believe is to dismiss everything that has been said in the life and work of Christ up to the point.

You must believe!

We have access to Eternal life by Faith. We have an increased awareness of Eternal life by Grace and Obedience.

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

- a. **The day of preparation.**
- b. **Legs might be broken.**

v. 32 'So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him'

Q; Why would the soldiers go to the left and go to the right but leave the breaking of Jesus' legs last? Why would they change method mid-task?

I can tell you that even the actions of wicked men are even directed by God. The Scriptures will be fulfilled. This will happen the way by which God has said it will happen whether the soldiers are aware of the reasons it is happening or not.

God does everything 'after the counsel of His own will' Eph. 1

v. 33 'but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.'

John says here that they say that Jesus was already dead and that was a reason that they did not break Jesus legs. BUT, that is not the actually entire reason.

If we continue to read we see that there is a larger reason why Jesus' body was not broken.

v. 34 'But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out'

v. 35 'And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe'

John is talking about himself.

John is telling us the truth. Believe him!

Q: Have you ever met someone in a situation like this? It's a dramatic event and they are adamant, I'm telling you the truth!

Jesus tells us, 'because I tell you the truth you do not believe me' – incredible isn't it.

You can tell people the plain and clear truth and they won't believe you.

It doesn't matter how straight you explain the truth to some people, they will take that straight truth and twist it like a pretzel.

I tell you what, If you tell somebody the truth and they twist it into a pretzel, it's not your problem to unravel it for them.

It's like the old saying, 'A fool can ask more questions than a wise man can answer!'

There's no use correcting a man, who's not interesting in learning. Proverbs says there's no hope for a man like that.

But a man who will hear, a man who will listen, there is hope for him. That man will increase in learning.

That man over time, will do well for himself. That man will become the kind of man that is a well-spring of life. BECAUSE, he will hear the truth, believe the truth, and as it takes root in his heart and mind, he will love and live the truth of God.

John wants us to know that this is his testimony and it is true.

v. 36 'For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE BROKEN"

Please turn to Psalm 34.

Ordinance of the Passover

Ex. 12:46 'It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.'

Num. 9:12 'They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it.'

Ps. 34:20 'He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken.'

This is incredible! This is known in Christian doctrine as the Persecuity of the Scripture. The unity of the Scripture.

You can go from Ex. 12, to Num. 9, to Ps. 34, and here we are living in John 19, and not any of it is broken! It is now coming to pass.

David lived what is coming to pass here.

Look at Psalm 34. V. 1-7. At great text to read and pray as you go to bed at night. As you tuck your children in.

Look at Psalm 34. V. 8-18.

Look at Psalm 34. V. 19-22.

Q: How can I understand Scripture? Scripture understands Scripture. Deep calls out to deep. Scripture cannot be broken. Glory goes to Glory.

As Thomas Watson said 'it is only a diamond that can cut a diamond'

We have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor. 2:2

The bones of the Passover lamb were not to be broken.

This Passover lamb, the Lord Jesus, was beaten, scourged, crucified, died, and was pierced, BUT not broken!

The Scripture will NOT be broken, Jesus will NOT be broken, and the message of redemption that flows through grace of God cannot be broken.

It is a Trustworthy statement, deserving of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ lived and died for sinners, among whom I am chief.

v. 37 'And again another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

That is referring to Zech. 12:10

Zechariah.

v. 38 'After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.'

Q: Are there such things as Secret Disciples?

There might be for a period of time, but the Holy Spirit won't allow it to be secret forever.

You might of eloped with Jesus in private but the Holy Spirit will force in your life a public profession of faith.

The Holy Spirit will force into your life public obedience.

v. 39 'Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight.'

There is an old story about Nicodemus that I came across years ago. And I don't even remember where it was from. It become difficult to track all of the sources that you read and we don't have access to all of the theological libraries that some people in large cities and churches have.

Nevertheless, I read the story of Nicodemus and his family after these events. And it seems that Nicodemus lost everything. I think it may even been recorded that he was killed for his obedience to care for the body of Christ. I might be wrong about that.

There is also a story that Nicodemus daughter, later, was found on the outskirts of Jerusalem sifting for grains of wheat in the dung piles in order to find some type of food because of their impoverished state for following Christ.

It was said that the story was recorded because the Pharisees, all of whom knew Nicodemus, and his family, walked by and turned a blind eye to helping her.

Friends, that's evil. That is the manifestation of Satan in a person, to see a person in need and to casually turn a blind a to them.

Retribution is coming for the person who turns a casual eye to the needy. You better feel a holy conviction about caring for those less fortunante OR the God of Heaven might night your temples and throw them into the ocean!

Recall. John 3

'Come to Him by night' – What happened between John 3 and John 19? What happened to this man?

Myrrh and aloes about a hundred pounds.

Q: He carried a hundred pounds of material from his home to the burial place of Jesus? I know people who are so smug they wouldn't so much as even lift a finger of service at a memorial service, much less carry 100 pounds of materials to help.

Be the kind of person that carries 100 pounds of material at a memorial service. Be that kind of person. It will make you a strong person.

Q: How much did 100 lbs of myrrh and aloe cost then?

A pound of aloe vera from Walgreens is about 5\$, a hundred pounds of it is about \$500. These types of materials were not as easily accessible as today.

Some people have estimated that 100lbs of myrrh and aloe could be equivalent of a cost of over \$100,000.

Consider this.

You've got two people that showed up for this memorial service. John must be present to witness this. I would imagine the women are there. It's possible they went home. John doesn't state that specifically in this passage.

The point is you have two men, going out of their way to care for the body of Jesus Christ. And it is here that I want to place emphasis for us today.

The CARE FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Did you realize that the church is called the body of Christ?

v. 40 'So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.'

v. 41 'Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.'

v. 42 'Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.'

These people cared for the Body of Jesus Christ.

The body of Jesus Christ is the NT Church.

We are the hands and the feet. We are all of the working components of the Christian church.

Needs of the Body.

Let's look over at 1 Cor. 12. The Usage of Spiritual Gifts.

1 Cor. 12:12-27

-Care for the church. The common good. Unity and love for one another.
-The well-being and building up of the church.

A church that is about to have its own memorial service is a body of Christ where the wide variety of spiritual gifts are not exercised in unity for the common good.

It's been said before that great preaching can bring people in a church, but it's great fellowship that will keep people in church.

Members (

People need to know

Eph. 1:22-23

Eph. 2:14-16

Eph. 4:15-16

1 Cor. 11:29

Rom. 12:4-5

God has promised to provide for all of our needs. God often provides for our needs through people in the church.

This past week I attended a 3-day conference for pastors, their wives, and missionaries. At that conference there were all kinds of people caring for the body of Christ.

There were people there serving to greet.

There were people there making coffee.

There were people making meals.

There were people playing instruments.

There were people setting up projects, and providing lyrics for worship music.

There were pastors preparing messages to give to the congregation.

There were people directing parking.

There was a man who was running security.

There people going around introducing themselves and making connections; fellowship.

It was a time of Christian fellowship where the body of Christ was caring for each other.

Pastoral Prayer.

Hymn 6. Jesus Loves Me.

Benediction. Col. 3:1-4, 14-17

Prayer.

Small Group Questions.

- 1. How do we see the Scripture fulfilled in the death and burial of Jesus Christ? Ref. Ex. 12:15, Num. 9:12, Deut. 21:23**
- 2. How do we see Prophecy fulfilled in the death and burial of Jesus Christ? Ref. Zech. 12:10**
- 3. Jesus stated in John 10 that the Scripture will not be broken; do we see that everything God has said will be fulfilled?**
- 4. The NT church is referred to as the body of Christ; how are we to care for the body of Christ/the Church? 1 Cor. 12:12-27**
- 5. A body needs regular, dependable, and faithful care in order to be healthy; What is one thing that I can commit to doing regularly that will provide care for the body of Christ?**