

Matthew 27 “The Death of the Messiah”

Please Stand and open your Bibles to Psalm 22:1-21

During the last night of the life of Jesus we have been with Him as he has the Last Supper with His Disciples and then went to the Garden where He prayed and then was arrested. We see Him being brought before the Jewish Sanhedrin for a mock trial. We left off with Peter denying Christ and running off in bitter tears. We pick it right where we left off...

Matthew 27:1-2

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

As we can see in this passage that they have a plot, a conspiracy, to have Jesus put to death. What we are going to witness today is the worst of mankind and what he is able to do in his heart. This is not just murder but a cold-blooded seditious conspiracy using the powers that be to bring about their murderous plan. I want you to think for a minute about the fact that God is using this to bring about the salvation for the very acts they are committing. After the grace that we see that He is offering to all who would put their trust in Him you would think that man would change. You would think that there wasn't a * global cold-blooded seditious conspiracy that has gathered together to murder God's people. Can you see why God is coming back to judge? Can you imagine

the amount of wrath being stored up because people have rejected His offer for salvation? We are living in a time where this is being repeated. God is using the powers that be to bring about His final plan. Not the salvation of mankind, the salvation of the Jewish nation. We are living in the days where this is being set up. History is repeating itself and the heart of man, left unredeemed, will continue in its murderous, conspiratorial ways.

What you need to know before we move forward is the relationship that the Jews had with Pilate. When Pilate first came into power, he wanted to flex his muscles by persecuting the Jews. We read about it in Luke...

Luke 13:1

There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

This event caused some of the Jewish leaders to go to Rome and complain to Caesar and Pilate received a warning that if there were any more problems that would be it for him. This was during the time of the “Pax Romana” and Rome wanted a forced peace over all the Empire. This was achieved in pretty much everywhere except with those pesky Jews. The Romans first gave them complete sovereignty over governing themselves as long as they paid taxes and did not rebel against the government. After many complaints about the Jews abusing this authority, they finally removed their ability to exercise capital punishment. Now this sets the stage for where we are at today. Pilate is not happy with the Jewish leaders and the Jews are trying to use him and the

crowd to fulfill their desire. This was their plot all along was to use the crowd and the situation for their advantage. This will help us as we read through this. But first Judas...

The end for Judas
Matthew 27:3-10

We need to remember that in the course of scripture we have future events fit into the narrative to help us understand a point or to give us the full story. There are two things that will make a critic point their finger and go "Ah Ha!" The first is the end of Judas.

Acts 1:18-19

(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

Well, which is it? Did he hang himself or did he fall down? Both. Obviously, when we compare the scripture, we can see that when Judas hung himself that most likely the rope broke, and he fell and hit the rocks and was cut open. What we do learn from Acts that this spot is where he hung himself and fell is where they purchased the land to bury strangers. The Potters field was like a dump. It is where they threw away all the pots that were broken or useless.

The second is the scripture attributed to Jeremiah. We know that this scripture is in Zechariah, and we cannot find anything really close to it in Jeremiah. No, don't throw out your bibles! It is most likely one of two things. In the Hebrew Old Testament at the time of Matthew the scroll of all the Prophets was titled "Jeremiah" and Matthew was just using that title. Zechariah is quoted several times in the New Testament, but it is never attributed directly to him just "It is written". Or it could also be a copyist error. The difference in Greek between the two names is just one letter that looks almost exactly alike. Remember we only have copies of copies of the original and no copies of the original. Nothing to give up your salvation over!

Before we move on, we need to point out the difference between Peter and Judas. They were both sorry for what they did but only Peter was forgiven.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Just being sorry is not enough. You need to have a change of mind that leads to a change in direction. Sorrow of the world is just sorry you got caught. Godly sorrow desires change. This isn't about changing yourself or stopping your sin and then coming to Christ. It is coming to the realization that you are a sinner and that

you need the forgiveness that God offers you through the shed blood of Jesus Christ! And about that...

Pilate's first reaction

Matthew 27:11-14

As the Jewish leaders are bringing Jesus to Pilate, they tell him the charge that is deserving of death...blasphemy. Under Jewish law they say it's the death sentence. But imagine this evil idol worshiping Roman hearing this. What's that mean to him? This is why it marveled him. He is not use to people not defending themselves. Pilate is actually wanting to help him out. He despises the Jews and wants in every way to not do anything they ask. But let us remember Who is in charge of all this. It's not the Jews, it's not the Romans...it's God!

Pilate's Dilemma

Matthew 27:15-26

I am sure that releasing Barabbas was the plan all along. It was a tradition to appease the Jews to release a prisoner. Not just any but a political one. Barabbas was a rebel against Rome and so to keep the peace they were going to let him go. But now Pilate was faced with a dilemma, in his spite he was going to release Jesus. He had no care about Jewish law and saw no wrong in Jesus. To him the title meant nothing. But the Jews had another idea and I believe it was planned all along. They knew they could make Pilate do what they wanted by making enough noise. I am sure glad those tactics aren't used anymore!

What you and I need to see here before we move on is something very interesting. Barabbas * means “Son of the Father” in Aramaic. Who is Jesus? He is the Son of the Father! Barabbas was guilty and was set free and Jesus took his place. The picture could not be clearer! You are the son/daughter of Adam. You inherited his sin. You are guilty! But Jesus stepped into your place so that you could be set free!

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Scourging of Jesus

Matthew 27:27-31

We cannot even imagine the cruelty that Jesus was exposed to. The Romans were experts in extracting confessions through the scourging process and many crimes were solved as criminals would beg for mercy confessing their crimes in the hopes of less blows. The cat of nine tails that they used was a cruel instrument of torture that only a sociopathic mind could develop. Often left people flayed open with their insides left exposed. Many never made it through and died for just this beating. Jesus would have taken the full force of each painful blow as he had no sins to confess. After which was compounded by the mocking and beating afterwards by the Roman guards. Often this is depicted in movies like the Passion of the Christ but could never really give us a real picture of what happened. To actually portray it would be

beyond human ability to do. It was an inhuman massacre beyond human comprehension! Here * is how Brent Miller will portray it in the upcoming movie "Eating with the Enemy". In reality we are told what it was really like...

Isaiah 52:14

Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men

It was so bad that He could not even carry His cross!

Jesus on the Cross

Matthew 27:32-44

He was beaten so bad that they had to compel Simon to carry it. This was a common practice for the Romans and if you refused you would have been killed. So you didn't argue you just did as he said. A couple things to point out. Did you see the name of the place? Most will say it was because of what the hill looked like. * You see the name Golgotha. Which means "Place of the Skull" It was just the place where the Romans crucified people, but also the place David put something...

1 Samuel 17:54

And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

Very interesting when you compare it. To this...

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Notice the mocking of Jesus. Nothing has changed. People continue to mock but that doesn't stop Him from loving them. They are still mocking Him today when we witness in the days we are living in...

2 Peter 3:3-4

...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

The Death of the Messiah

Matthew 27:45-56

Now, during the last three hours of Jesus's life we have the point where God has turned His back on the Son and He is taking the full weight of the sins of the world upon Himself. This is why we hear Him shout out the first verse of Psalm 22. This is Jesus in full brunt of His humanity taking on the punishment for our sins. The truth is that God has not forsaken Him. It is quite the opposite. In His humanity it may have felt that way, but the reality is it was what had to happen for us to be forgiven. God had to look away and it was witnessed by the darkness over the land. Many stories across the world record a moment of darkness around this time

that cannot be explained. This was not an eclipse. This was a darkness from the light of God turning from His Son as He takes the brunt of our sins. As He dies, we are told He cried out with a loud voice. John tells us what that is...

John 19:30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

What was finished? The payment for our sins! This is good news!

Now, Matthew points out something none of the other gospel writers do and that is these saints that are raised and walking around. We will cover this later when we finish Matthew and will come back and explain it all to you. But before we leave today, I want to point out the importance of verse 51

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split

This is the most important of all things seen in this chapter. The veil is what separated the Most Holy place from the Holy Place. It was where the Ark of the Covenant was located and only once a year could a High Priest enter in with the Blood of a sacrifice for the sins of the people. This was only temporary and had to be done year after year after year. But this symbolism of this 12" thick curtain being ripped from top to bottom shows us that the way to God has now been opened. Through His death we now have complete access to the Father because our sins, past,

present, and future have been forgiven, washed in His blood. Listen to what the writer of Hebrews says...

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You can come today! Nothing is stopping you! It has been finished and you can enter in by faith.

Matthew 26:26

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

Matthew 26:27-28

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.