

“The Cross and the Son of Man” Luke 23:26-23:56

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Psalm 22:1-21

Last time we looked at the trial of Jesus and His interaction with Pilate. We left off with the exchange of Barabbas for Jesus and how it reflected that Jesus stepped into our place. But did God just end it there? No. Justice and Judgement still have to be meted out. The sin of Barabbas needed to be paid for. The sin for you and I too. Today, as we will see, Jesus dies on the cross, we are going to learn the most important doctrine in the Christian faith. It is foundational and any that come and try to get you to question it are apostates that need to be rejected. The questioning of foundational doctrines in the Christian faith is not new. From the time of Paul all the way to today there are those that would try to creep in and get us to question the truth. Satan's devises have never changed. We saw this 15-20 years ago with the “Emerging Church” Movement that was trying to change the Church to fit a “Post-Modern” Society. But now we have YouTube Podcasters like Kirk Cameron and others that are now doing Satan's bidding with the old lie, “Has God Really Said?”. This is why I am going to go through this and then end with something you need to know and defend. But first let's pick up where we left off last time. Between verse 25 and 26 there was something that John brings up...

John 19:1, 13-14

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him...When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

Before we see Jesus go to the cross, we need to see what happened. The chastisement that Luke mentioned in our text last time was a Roman scourging. They did this to extract past crimes as the criminal would cry out and confess them and the guards would lighten the stripes. This or the criminal would scream curse words at them. Jesus knew no sin, so he uttered not a word thereby taking the full blunt of the punishment.

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

And because it is also said...

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

Jesus was beaten beyond recognition. Historians tell us that family members would only see a pulp of mass that used to be the face, and they would not recognize them. This is important as we pick up in verse 26...

Simon and the Daughters of Jerusalem

Luke 23:26-31

First, we see Simon from modern day Tripoli being compelled to take up the cross of Jesus. The criminal would carry the cross beam to the place of crucifixion as part of their punishment. Jesus had been beaten so bad they had to find someone to carry it for Him. Simon, we are told in Mark, was the father of Alexander and Rufus showing us that he most likely got saved and he and his family became part of the early church.

Second, the Daughters of Jerusalem are not the women that followed Jesus. These would have been professional mourners that were representative of the Jewish nation. Jesus is using Hebrew idioms to prophesy of the coming destruction of the

temple and the persecution and dispersion the Jews. This is unique to Luke and very interesting. To fully understand the horrors that the nation of Israel went through read the “The War of the Jews” by the historian Josephus.

The Cross, The Criminals and the Guards

Luke 23:32-43

- Calvary – Place of the Skull
- Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.
- The First of seven saying on the cross
- Psalm 22:18 They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
- Psalm 22:7-8
All those who see Me ridicule Me;
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,
“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”
- The sign carried the charge
- The Thief that is saved – 2nd saying on the cross

Luke 23:44-46

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ ” Having said this, He breathed His last.

This darkness is from Noon to 3 PM and it was over the entire earth. Now before this time we had the third statement from the cross...

John 19:26-27

When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold your son!” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

But at the end of the time of darkness was the moment that the Father turned His face away from the Son as He takes on the weight of all the sins of the world. It was at this time that we get the fourth statement on the cross...

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

It was after this that the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom and the 5th and 6th statement of the cross happened.

John 19:28

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”

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.

And the 7th is in our scripture here. We will come back to number 6 in a minute but let us finish our scripture today...

Jesus Was Dead and Buried

Luke 23:47-56

We have the witnesses that were there. The centurion that saw him die. The guards that pieced His side. The women that watched Him taken down and buried. Joseph and Nicodemus

that buried Him. He was dead. He died in His physical body. But why? Why did He have to die and in the most brutal way? Let's go back to the 6th saying on the cross...

John 19:30

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" (Greek - Tetelestai – "Paid in Full") And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

What was paid in full? The full price for our debt of sin! God did not just look the other way at our sin. He did not just forgive and forget as if to pretend it never happened. God is the Judge of the Universe and in His nature, He has to punish sin. There was a legal requirement that had to be met. Justice had to be meted out, and Jesus took it ALL upon Himself. This is foundational to your faith and your salvation. If you reject this or try to explain it so it does not sound as bad as it was then you are a heretic period. (Mention N.T. Wright) This doctrine also removes any semblance of works-based salvation as was the problem that crept into the church of Galatia

Galatians 3:1

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

What was the doctrine of the crucifixion that the Galatians got wrong?

Vicarious

Penal

Substitutionary

Atonement

Let's break it down

Vicarious

“performed or suffered by one person as a substitute for another or to the benefit or advantage of another”

We saw this last time with Jesus taking the place of Barabbas. This is reflected in the scripture...

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.

Penal

“of, relating to, or involving punishment, penalties, or punitive institutions”

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God

Substitutionary

“of or relating to substitution : serving by way of a substitute”

This is self-explanatory but shown many ways in scripture. Here is one of them...

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)

Atonement

“reparation for an offense or injury : SATISFACTION”

In the Old Testament the sacrificial system could only cover a sin temporarily, but the sacrifice of Jesus was once and for all

Hebrews 7:26-27

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than

the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

In the past it was the same as the "Mercy Seat". The temporary cover for the sins of the nation that pointed forward to the cross. It was used here in Romans...

Romans 3:24-26

...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation (Mercy Seat, Hebrew – Kofar) by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

But before we leave today, we have a Greek word that best reflects our doctrine today of...

Vicarious

Penal

Substitutionary

Atonement

It is only used twice in the New Testament. Once here...

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Propitiation

English = “Total Appeasement”

Greek = hilasmos - “an appeasing, propitiating the means of appeasing, a propitiation”

This is a legal term for something that is owed and completely paid off. It is also the idea of terms that are satisfied. A judgement is meted out, and the sentence is given and once this is satisfied the person is set free.

This is the strongest word in the Greek dictionary that tells us that the entire wrath of God that was intended towards you for all your sins, past, present and future was completely legally satisfied when Jesus died on the cross. Not only for you but the whole world!

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

This is the good news of the gospel! We are legally now set free!
Have you been pardoned yet? You can today!