

## Prodigal World

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Kelly: C@R. ThanksgivingEve. Giving Tree. Women's Xmas.
- B. Slide6 Missions Prayer Mtg - This Fri. 6:30-8:30 private residence. Updates for Ro/Ho. Contact Michaelah or info booth for directions.

### II. Slide7a Intro: Prodigal World

- A. Outline: Love Is Messy. Salvation is free But It Is Not Cheap.
- B. A little bit of a heavy section. Yes, *Jesus loves you*...this chapter explains **how**.
  - 1. Slide7b It's revisiting *The Story*. It's Love's as hard as nails. Love is nails. CSLewis
  - 2. What is the cross? *It is a minus turned into a plus.*
- C. Flogging - open & public. *This was state sponsored terror.*
  - 1. It was like the Wild West hanging someone at high noon. It is like today when terrorist put a beheading on YouTube. It's to discourage anyone else from doing the same. It's shame-based, *on you & your family.*
- D. Slide8 Crucifixion - *The Hour had finally come...*
  - 1. Crucifixion was a barbaric form of capital punishment invented by the Persians
  - 2. Ahura Mazda, whose name means *wise lord*, was the most important god in ancient Persian mythology. When the religion known as Zoroastrianism became widespread in Persia around 600 BC. The Persians considered him to be the creator of *earth, the heavens, and humankind*, as well as the source of all goodness and happiness on earth. He was known to later Zoroastrians as Ohrmazd.
    - a) Since they felt that **death** should not *contaminate the earth*, they hung them above the earth.
- E. Slide9 Perhaps due to the gruesomeness of this horrible practice, detailed accounts of crucifixions by historians are few. The Jewish historian **Josephus**, who witnessed live crucifixions during **Titus'** siege on Jerusalem, called it "*the most wretched of deaths.*"
  - 1. **Cicero** described it as a "*most cruel and disgusting penalty.*"

2. Perhaps the most unique and detailed description of death by crucifixion was given by **Seneca**, a Roman philosopher, poet, and playwright: *"Can anyone be found who would prefer wasting away in pain dying limb by limb, or letting out his life drop by drop, rather than expiring once for all? Can any man be found willing to be fastened to the accursed tree, long sickly, already deformed, swelling with ugly weals on shoulders and chest, and drawing the breath of life amid long-drawn-out agony? He would have many excuses for dying even before mounting the cross."*

F. Slide10 The forms in which the cross is represented are these:

1. The crux simplex (I) a single piece, without transom/horiz beam.
2. The crux decussata (X) or St. Andrew's cross.
3. The crux commissa (T) or St. Anthony's cross.
4. The crux immissa (t) or Latin cross. *Which we think was the kind of cross on which Jesus died, because above our Lord's head, on the projecting beam, was placed the inscription.*

G. For 2000 years the cross has captured the attention of "artists, poets, architects, & yes, even Jewelers". Let's take that tiny piece of jewelry we call a cross back 2000 years.

1. When the cross was not a symbol of faith but of failure; not of morality but of lawlessness; not of respect but of *unspeakable shame*.

H. Let's remember: Jesus was not a helpless victim of some insidious plot. He was not a pitiful martyr whose plans were suddenly terminated. No His crucifixion had been carefully *planned, predicted, & prophesied* shown to us throughout the Scriptures.

1. *Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.* Acts 2:23

### III. Slide11a LOVE IS MESSY (1-16)

A. (2) Jesus & Pilate had been talking about a kingdom so it was only right that the king have a crown.

1. Obviously done for mockery but it preached a message, for Jesus was *wearing the consequences of Adam's sins.*

2. In Gen.3:17-19 it describes the results of Adams fall...*cursed ground, toil, thorns & thistles the ground will bring forth.*

a) Here stands Jesus *wearing the consequences of Adam's sin.*

3. Yet don't forget, a crown is a sign of **victory**...**He has overcome.**

B. **Slide11b** (5) **Behold the man/See the man.** **Not a superhero** sweeping through the rebel state with horses and chariots, defeating the rebellion in a blaze of glory.

1. **See the man** who is the true image of the true God. The one who brought God's wisdom into the world. The living embodiment of God. The one who has made the invisible God visible. Here is the king. Placed within the emperors world so the people can see who is their true master. **See the man**, and you'll see your *living, loving, bruised and bleeding God.* NT Wright

C. **Slide11c** (6) **Crucify Him, crucify Him** - we've all seen this, someone comes up with a **slogan**, and to instigate the crowd *they chant the slogan.*

1. **We see it at political events, sporting events, military campaigns.**

It could be, Make America Great Again. **Or**, Love, not hate, makes America great. **Or**, Lock - her - up (Hilary). **Or**, Black lives matter. **Or**, No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here.

2. In this case the mob frenzy was repeating, **Crucify Him Crucify Him.**

3. This was their **slogan**, this was their **rallying cry**, this was on all of their merch (T-shirts, hats, their bumper stickers), this was their **hashtag**.

D. **Slide11d** (7) **We have a law** - Lev.24:16 *Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him.*

1. They're not even **obeying** the very verse that they are quoting. **A legalist is one who uses the bible as binoculars to watch others, instead of a mirror for themselves.**

E. **We have a law** - People who know **the Law**, but not **Jesus**, are *dangerous*.

1. There is no major world religion, in the history of the world, that has its founder making this claim, **I am God.** **Not** Confucius, Buddha, Muhammad, or Krishna.

2. But Jesus as it **openly, publicly, repeatedly, consistently.**

F. (10) Don't miss Pilate's *I am very important* speech.

- G. **Slide11e** (11) Jesus doesn't challenge the authority that Pilate has over him. He merely informs him that it comes from above, from God. Jesus shows that even pagan state and empires hold their rule under the ultimate authority of the one true God.
1. *If Jesus could acknowledge even Pilates authority, clearly a **Christian view of secular power has to make room for some light and shade in its picture, and not construct too quickly an easy, black-and-white scheme in which some rulers are good and most...simply bad.** NT Wright*
- H. **Slide11fa** (12) Pilate gravely aware of *the coil of evil* in which he was caught.
- I. This is the chief priests *secret weapon*...
1. In football this is the **Hail Mary** play. Time is running out, you have 1 play left, this one better work, *throw deep & long & hope it's a catch.*
  2. For the chief priests it was the threat of telling *Pilate's boss, the emperor, the Caesar.* *"you mean you had a man in front of you on a charge of making himself a rebel king, and you let him go? What sort of governor are you?"*
  3. For the **pawn** who cares what everyone thinks...this was **checkmate!**
- J. **Slide12a** (13) **Gabbatha** a raised elevation. **The judgement seat** (bema seat). **The stone pavement** (lithostrotos/tessellated pavement). This **pavement** was outside the hall of the praetorium (or gov headquarters, 18:28. Prob the Herodian palace).
- K. (15) **We have no king but Caesar** - The **political straw** that brings Pilate to his knees.
1. When the Romans first came into Palestine, they had the most bloody rebellion on their hands, because the Jews had insisted that **God alone was their king!**
  2. **Slide12b** This must have taken Pilate's breath away. (William Barclay) *The Jews abandoned every principle they had in order to eliminate Jesus. In their hatred they forgot all mercy, they forgot all sense of proportion, they forgot all justice, they forgot all their principles, they even forgot God! Never in history was the insanity of hatred so vividly shown.*

#### IV. **Slide13 SALVATION IS FREE...BUT IT IS NOT CHEAP (17-24)**

- A. (17) **Bearing His own cross** - The crossbeam where love & justice meet.

1. Which reminds us of **Isaac**, being a type of Christ, in *carrying his own wood* for his almost/sacrifice.
- B. **Slide14a** (18) **Jesus between them** - Between 2 thieves. Between life & death. Between heaven & earth. Between the rejection of man & the rejection of God. Between incarnation & glorification. Between sin covered over & sin taken away.
- C. There He hangs with outstretched arms, aching for *a prodigal world's* return.
- D. **With two others** - Jesus is blessed with the **last kind words** He'd hear on earth. **Not from** a religious leader, **not from** a disciple, **not even** from His mother **but from a common thief**.
1. We don't know anything about this criminal. Not how much he stole nor how often. From whom or why. We only know he was a thief. **A wayward son over whom some mother's heart has been broken; over whom some father's hopes have been dashed.**
    - a) I wonder, was his mother even there? If she was, could she hear or even perceive what just took place? Lk.24:39-43
    - b) And what did Jesus' *eyes of forgiveness* look like?
- E. **Jesus in the center** - may it be said of our lives. [not linear **but central**] [not *centered around*/revolve around]
1. **Not:** God #1, marriage #2, children #3, ministry #4, work #5, hobbies #6, etc.
  2. **But:** Jesus the center of our **life**. Jesus the center of our **marriage**. Jesus the center of our **kids**. Jesus the center of our **ministry**. Jesus the center of our **work**. Jesus the center of our **hobbies**.
- F. **Slide14b** (19-22) **INRI** - is the abbrev of the Latin inscription *Jesus Nazarenus rex Iudaeorus*
1. **Aramaic/local language**. **Latin/official language** across the Roman Empire. **Greek/common/universal language** of commerce and writing.
  2. A condemned roman prisoner often first **carried** his plaque around his neck on the way to the place of execution. *Which reminds me of the tolay'ath or tolah...*
- G. **Slide15 Ps.22:6** **But I am a worm & not a man, scorned by mankind & despised by the people**
1. These words were alluded to, when Jesus was on the cross. *My God, My God* (vs.1) ...pointed to **the whole Psalm**.
  2. **This was 1st speaking about David**, **but** it was also **a Messianic Psalm**. It gives a unique view of the crucifixion **before** this torture was even dreamed up.

- H. The Hebrew word **Tolah**/worm refers to an *insect **Kermes or Coccus Ilicis*** [cock-is ilee-cis] *The dried body of the female yielding coloring matter, from which is made the dye used for cloth to color it **scarlet or crimson.*** [worm normally Heb. *rimmah*]
1. Is.1:18 *Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like **crimson** (tolah), they shall become like wool.*
    - a) It was **crushed for its dye** as Jesus was crushed for His.
    - b) This dye was also used to *blot out a prisoners sentence* before his release.
- I. Henry Morris in *Biblical Basis for Modern Science* said, When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would **attach her body to the trunk of a tree**, fixing herself so **firmly and permanently** that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the **crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood**.<sup>1</sup>
1. From the dead bodies of such *female scarlet worms*, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted.
  2. What a picture this gives of Christ, *dying on the tree, shedding His precious blood that He might bring many sons unto glory*. Heb. 2:10
  3. He died for us, that we might live *through Him*.
- J. (24) To this point, every prophecy regarding the Messiah - even to the gambling of His clothes was fulfilled.
1. That one thief didn't know much theology. **He only knew 3 things:**
    - a) **That** Jesus was King. **That** His kingdom was not of this world. **That** this King had the power to bring even the most unworthy into His kingdom.
      - (1) **But that was enough. A lifetime of moral debt cancelled :)**
- K. **Slide16** The king of the Jews is God's chosen representative, *not only to rule the world but to redeem it*.

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<sup>1</sup> From page 73, "Biblical Basis for Modern Science", 1985, Baker Book House, by Henry Morris.