

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the Gospel of John 18

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John

And after a year and a half – by the grace of God, we are going to be looking at what the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle John to write regarding the crucifixion.

Let's pray...

Read Text –

So we are going to look at John's account of the crucifixion –

And as I was going over the text – one of the things that really spoke to me – was the details that John records for us and in his gospel that are not found in the other gospels. As well as some details that he find in some of the other gospels that John doesn't mention.

So I really wanted to stay true to John's account this morning -

[Jhn 19:17-30 NKJV] 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called [the Place] of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

In our study last Sunday – we looked at this verse and I really felt that it was very important that we truly grasp what it meant for Jesus to bare His cross.

His cross was the Father's will for Him

And Jesus willfully reached out and picked up His cross, put it on His shoulders and carried it as He made His way to the place where He was to be executed – the Place of a skull (which is Golgotha in Hebrew / or in Latin, Calvary)

So you can tell people that your fellowship at Skull of the Holy Cross

And so as we see Jesus bearing His cross here in verse 17 – it brings to mind the events that is recorded for us back in the OT in Gen 22

Turn with me to Gen 22

Abraham was told – “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

[Gen 22:3-8 NKJV] 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So

Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid [it] on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where [is] the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering

Isaac is a picture of Jesus – carrying the very wood that he would be sacrificed on – and Isaac didn't argue with Abraham – he didn't overpower Abraham, he was obedient to his father's will.

Jesus is carrying the very wood that He would be nailed to and become the perfect sacrifice – once and for all - for all mankind

Think about when we started our study through the Gospel of John –

[Jhn 1:29 NKJV] 29 The next day John (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

What a beautiful picture –

That statement made by Abraham – so many years before

That statement made by John the Baptist 3 years earlier –

It comes to fruition here in our text

It comes to prophetic fulfillment as God was indeed providing a Lamb for the sacrifice

18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

John, like the other gospel writers – under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – spare us the details of the cross.

All of the Gospel writers simply make the statement – they crucified Him.

Part of the reason was because punishment by crucifixion was very common to the people living during this time –

So cruel and barbaric was crucifixion that Rome outlawed to be used on its own citizens.

It was so gruesome and painful – sometimes it took days for someone to die.

But also – part of the reason that we are not given details was not to sensationalize the cross –

You see church -

It is not about us simply feeling sorry for Jesus

Poor Jesus – hanging helpless on the cross – that is not the emphasis

The emphasis of the gospels and even of the epistles is not on the cross – but on what happened as a result of His work on the cross.

19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put [it] on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, [and] Latin.

I made the point last week – that as Jesus was bearing His cross to Golgotha – He was accompanied by four soldiers and one of the soldiers – the one in the front would be carrying a sign containing the accused person's crimes and this was done so that all would see what kind of horrible crime brought such a horrible death.

It was a warning to the people.

This title was called a titulus

Jesus' titulus didn't have any crimes on it – because He didn't commit any crimes.

So Pontius Pilate – to get even with the religious rulers for manipulating him to do their dirty work

He simply writes the title, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS

Pilate may have meant this in a sarcastic way.

But it was true –

They simply rejected their King and Messiah

Remember – in our study a few weeks ago –

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews?

Jesus told Pilate - “Hey Pilate - My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

Now, getting back to this titulus – this sign that was nailed to the cross with the person’s accusations.

Every single one of us – had a titulus written against us

Herb Perez

Here are his crimes deserving of death

Rj had his, Danny had his.....

The key word is “had”

And it is all because of what Jesus Christ did for you and me on the cross.

Turn to Colossians 2

Paul writing to the church in Colosse –

[Col 2:13-14 NKJV] 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

When Jesus died on the cross, in a sense He was taking the titulus written in heaven against us, and He erased it – by having it nailed to His own cross.

John also tells us that this title was written in Hebrew, Latin and Greek

Hebrew was the language of the Jews, Latin was the language of the Romans and Greek was the language of the rest of the world.

So, this title of Jesus was written for ALL people to read.

21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.” ‘ “ 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Pilate finally found the courage to stand up to the religious rulers – however, it is on a rather unimportant matter.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. 24 They said therefore among

themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the **Scripture might be fulfilled which says:** "They divided My garments among them, **And for My clothing they cast lots."** Therefore the soldiers did these things.

There are a few things I want us to consider as we look at these two verses –

The first one is - Part of the pay that a soldier on execution duty would receive - was in the dividing up of a criminal's belongings, including clothing.

There were 4 of them at Jesus' crucifixion and they split up His belongings 4 ways.

The one problem was His tunic.

Instead of tearing it and dividing the tunic into 4 pieces, they decided to cast lots for it.

Thus fulfilling Psalm 22:18 a Psalm of David – where David describes the crucifixion 1000 years before Jesus hung on the cross – many hundreds of years before death by crucifixion was even invented.

Now, in the book of Exodus – when God gives Moses instruction for the High Priests outer garment – he specifically instructed to make it from a single piece of cloth
Exodus 28:31-32

And then God gives special instruction regarding the high priests that they were never ever to tear their clothes because they had been sanctified or declared holy by the Lord. (Lev 21:10)

But Matthew tells us that when Caiaphas was interrogating Jesus hours earlier –

When Caiaphas asks – “Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!”

And Jesus said, “You said it”

That Caiaphas tore his clothes

Caiaphas – by tearing his clothes was defaming his position

By going to the cross, Jesus was fulfilling His call as our great high priest in offering Himself as our sacrifice

So, the Roman soldiers showed more regard for the humble tunic of Jesus than Caiaphas did for his.

And then the last thing I want us to see is how much detail is mentioned about these Roman soldiers dividing Jesus’ clothes.

Regarding the crucifixion – it was simply, and they crucified Him

But look at the detail John provides where he tells us that Jesus was crucified between two thieves – the detail here regarding the soldiers casting lots for Jesus’ garments

And the reason is that it fulfilled prophecy – it is exactly what God said was going to happen - proving that God is who He said He is

Remember, John wrote his account of the Gospel that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

And He does it by providing one of God's attributes – His omniscience – He is all knowing – that is who He is

Write these verse down -

[Act 15:18 NKJV] 18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works.

[Isa 42:9 NKJV] 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

God even uses His attribute to taunt the false prophets and false gods that His people were listening to

[Isa 41:21-24 NKJV] 21 "Present your case," says the LORD. "Bring forth your strong [reasons]," says the King of Jacob. 22 "Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they [were], That we may consider them, And know the latter end of them; Or declare to us things to come. 23 Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you [are] gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see [it] together. 24 Indeed you [are] nothing, And your work [is] nothing; [He who] chooses you [is] an abomination.

God is telling them – do something – show us something – say something that is going to wow us -

God uses His omniscience to prove positive that He is God and points out that there is no other being that has the capacity to do that.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the [wife] of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own [home].

Jesus is hanging on a Roman cross as this unfolds – standing at His feet are this group of women and one of His disciples – the disciple whom He loved – and of course John is referring to himself.

BTW – when John refers to Peter – he says, hey that's Peter

And when he describes other people, he describes them by name

But when he refers to himself – he doesn't say – hey that's me or that's I

He says the disciple whom Jesus loved

He wants to make sure that we know that he is the disciple who Jesus loved

And so what we have here in these three verses is an episode of love

Where Jesus entrusts the care of His mom – to the man that loves Him and the man that He loves.

In these final moments, under intense pain and agony – Jesus is thinking of others.

And really if we take a step back and look at the totality of His time hanging on the cross, the weight of the heart of Jesus is for others.

Forgiveness, love and care was on His heart

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

To the one thief on the cross -

“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

When He says, “It is finished” –

He was thinking of you and me – as the veil that stood before man and God was torn in two – there is no longer any separation between man God – in Christ.

And as I was trying to imagine Jesus hanging on the cross – a sense of conviction fell upon me.

Now, when I am in pain, in agony, in suffering – caring for others and thinking of others is not usually my first response.

In fact – it seems that the more difficult the situation – the more I think of myself.

Am I the only one here?

Jesus in the last breathes of His life is filled with the love of the Father

And so, in this text I find conviction but one of the things I also find is encouragement

I am encouraged that it is possible – in that Jesus shows us a better way

He shows us a better way in our pain

He shows us a better way in our suffering

His first response was love – especially for those He cared for

We don't get the tenderness of what is happening here at the foot of the cross because of the translation to the English and because of the words that are used.

When Jesus saw His mother -

In our culture we tend to use the word mother as a technical word – we use it as a formal word to refer to our moms.

Even the word Woman – that Jesus uses here – is a very tender word

This is a very intimate moment – besides the fact that Jesus is hanging on a cross beaten beyond recognition – shedding His blood for the sins of those that were in front of Him

It is a very tender moment where Jesus tells John – take care of My mom, take care of My mom

Here is your son, here is your mom

Now, the scriptures tell us that Jesus had other younger half-brothers and half-sisters.

So the question is - Why didn't Jesus have them watch over Mary?

Because as the first born – he had the responsibility to take care of mom and He would who would not entrust her into the care of nonbelievers.

So rather than saying – mom, go back home and you will be taken care of by the other kids, who didn't know Jesus at that time as Messiah, Jesus entrusted her into the care of one who did know the Lord – John.

Mom, you will be taken care of by John – and John, I want you to take care of my mother

And John tells us -

And from that hour that disciple took her to his own [home].

So we have at the foot of the cross – Mary watching her son died

33 years earlier –

Mary had received a prophetic word from Simeon when she and Joseph brought Jesus to present Him at the temple.

[Luk 2:34-35 NKJV] 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this [Child] is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against 35 "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

A sword will pierce through your own soul

That is exactly what was happening to Mary as she looked up and saw Jesus' disfigured face, as she saw parts of His beard plucked out, as she saw the crowns of thorns upon His head, as she saw His back torn apart from the scourging and saw His struggle for every breath

Watching her son die for the sins of the world including her own – and so - her soul is pierced.

Jesus on a cross still ministering –
dying but still caring – because that is the Savior we serve.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'