

Lesson 12 – 16 January 2011

The Crucifixion of the King

Lesson Scope: [Matthew 27:27-66](#)

Lesson Focus.

Pilate was certainly in an awkward position as he tried unsuccessfully to spare Jesus' life. Openly washing his hands before the multitude and not involving himself in the actual crucifixion of Christ did not remove his guilt. Honor and position meant more to Pilate than all the obvious injustices showered upon this just Man. Stress the fact that, as followers of Christ, we must be ready to bear the reproach that goes along with cross bearing and self-sacrifice. The cost of identifying with Christ is nothing in comparison to an eternity spent in hell because of rejecting Him.

Faced with the question of what to do with Jesus, Pilate labored to appease the people and yet spare Jesus' life. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, he washed his hands in a futile effort to declare himself innocent from the blood of this just Person. Barabbas was released as Jesus was delivered to be crucified.

Death by crucifixion represented the ultimate in shame and disgrace. The cross meant an agonizing and torturous death, such as was usually reserved for the worst of criminals. Yet the Father's plan called for Jesus to experience it.

Each detail surrounding Jesus' crucifixion carried with it a weight of significance both prophetic and typical. The timing of Jesus' death was not by coincidence or chance. It was by divine plan that He died during the Pass-over feast, fulfilling all the rich symbolism it contained. The accuracy of Isaiah's prophecy in chapter 53 proved miraculous.

The greatest triumph of human history, Jesus' death perfectly fulfilled the Father's purposes. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself."

Lesson Aim: To understand the significance of the details surrounding Jesus' crucifixion.

Theme Verse: [Isaiah 53:11](#). "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."

Lesson Text

Mocked in the Common Hall

[Matthew 27:27-30](#)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. ²⁸And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

²⁹And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

Crucified at Golgotha

[Matthew 27:31-54](#)

And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. ³²And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. ³³And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

³⁴They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. ³⁵And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. ³⁶And sitting down they watched him there; ³⁷And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

³⁹And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, ⁴⁰And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. ⁴¹Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴²He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ⁴³He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. ⁴⁴The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ⁴⁷Some of them that stood there, when they

heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. ⁴⁸And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

⁵⁰Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. ⁵¹And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; ⁵²And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, ⁵³And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Buried in Joseph's Tomb

[Matthew 27:57-60](#)

When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: ⁵⁸He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. ⁵⁹And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Questions for Study

Mocked in the Common Hall

1. What significant truths were veiled in the cruel mockery of Jesus as King?
2. Why does God allow wicked men to mock and reproach His own beloved?

Crucified at Golgotha

3. Of what significance was Jesus' placement between two thieves?
4. What details surrounding Jesus' crucifixion were proofs of His sonship?
5. What profound truths are revealed in the events of verses 51 and 52?
6. How is true Christianity misunderstood by many today'?

Buried in Joseph's Tomb

7. How did Joseph demonstrate his love for Christ?
8. What truths can we glean from the manner in which Christ was buried?

Analyzing the Passage

In Genesis 22:8, Abraham told Isaac that God will provide Himself a lamb. God was offering a part of Himself through Jesus' death. Jesus was God incarnate. The soldiers used Jesus' claim of kingship as a basis for their brutal sport. The scarlet robe, the crown of thorns, the reed in His right hand, and bowing the knees were all a sham of majesty.

"They watched him" (Matthew 27:36) reveals the careful attention paid to Jesus. What would happen next? In Matthew 27:50, we see that Jesus "yielded up the ghost." This was a voluntary death. If Christ was to save others, He could not save Himself.

The rending of the veil from top down was likely one of the more impressive miracles surrounding Jesus' death. Jesus was buried with the rich in His death as He was laid in a hewn sepulcher. Joseph revealed his special love and devotion by his self-sacrificing efforts in the burial of Jesus.

Principles and Applications

Mocked in the Common Hall

1. Jesus' kingly qualities were veiled in mockery and cruelty (Matthew 27:28–30). A true king is not made up of mere outward display, but rather his life is characterized by inner qualities that are reflected in outward actions and responses. Jesus truly was what they accused Him of claiming to be.

2. God the Father did not interfere with the disgraceful acts of man (Matthew 27:28-30). "It pleased the LORD to bruise him: he hath put him to grief" (Isaiah 53:10). Pure, innocent, and unspotted blood as of a lamb was God's requirement, and Jesus fulfilled this.

Crucified at Golgotha

3. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies were evidence of divine plan (Matthew 27:35). The prophets themselves, and certainly these unjust men, did not understand how these things would be fulfilled. After Pentecost the apostles were convinced of these Scriptures and used them mightily to convince men that Jesus is the Christ.

4. Jesus was numbered with the transgressors (Matthew 27:38). It was planned that Jesus' cross would be between two thieves. Onlookers derided Him as the worst of blasphemers. In this act, Isaiah 53:12 was fulfilled—"He was numbered with the transgressors." Although Jesus bore the sin of many, He did not become sinful Himself.

5. Misunderstanding and ignorance characterized those who crucified Jesus (Matthew 27:39-43). Even the passersby wagged their heads and mocked Christ. Would the chief priests have believed in Christ if He had come down miraculously off the cross? Likely not. They had little understanding of the power within Jesus' reach to deliver Himself. They did not see the bigger picture of how Jesus' death was necessary to redeem fallen mankind.

6. Creation responded in reverence to the Creator (Matthew 27:45). God caused the mindless forces of nature to give to Christ the recognition that man refused to give. These events arrested the people's attention and should have drawn their minds toward God.

7. Jesus voluntarily gave His life (Matthew 27:50). The release of Jesus' spirit was deliberate on His part. The voice is one of the first things to fail normally in a dying man. But Jesus spoke loudly, immediately before dying. Jesus' crying with a loud voice suggests that His death should be published and proclaimed abroad.

8. Jesus' death opened the way into the presence of God (Matthew 27:51). The rending of the veil took place around the time of the evening sacrifice. The priests themselves were likely eyewitnesses of this event, which signified that all barriers were removed, allowing open access to the throne of God.

9. The miraculous events surrounding Jesus' death convinced many that this was the Son of God (Matthew 27:54). It is not difficult for God to get man's attention. Even the ungodly recognized a higher power at work. The challenge many times is for men to go beyond a recognition or confession of recognition to a personal acceptance of Christ into their heart and life.

Buried in Joseph's Tomb

10. The burial of Jesus was of divine plan (Matthew 27:57-60). With the eleven disciples fearful and hiding, Joseph courageously stepped forward to beg the body of Christ. He carefully wrapped it and laid it in his own new tomb, showing his love as he paid his last respects to Christ.

Important Teachings

1. Jesus' kingly qualities were veiled in mockery and cruelty (Matthew 27:28-30).

2. God the Father did not interfere with the disgraceful acts of man (Matthew 27:28-30).

3. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies were evidence of divine plan (Matthew 27:35).
4. Jesus was numbered with the transgressors (Matthew 27:38).
5. Misunderstanding and ignorance characterized those who crucified Jesus (Matthew 27:39-43).
6. Creation responded in reverence to the Creator (Matthew 27:45).
7. Jesus voluntarily gave His life (Matthew 27:50).
8. Jesus' death opened the way into the presence of God (Matthew 27:51).
9. The miraculous events surrounding Jesus' death convinced many that this was the Son of God (Matthew 27:54).
10. The burial of Jesus was of divine plan (Matthew 27:57-60).

Answers to Questions

1. What significant truths were veiled in the cruel mockery of Jesus as King?

He truly was what they accused Him of claiming to be. This cruel mockery gave Jesus the opportunity to demonstrate the true qualities of a heavenly King. Jesus' patience, meekness, and unjust suffering provide the pattern for us as His followers today.

2. Why does God allow wicked men to mock and reproach His own beloved?

It could be a means of trying our faith and making us stronger for Him. Sometimes the hearts of the very ones performing the wicked deeds are turned to God by the divine character displayed in the life of one who is ill-treated.

3. Of what significance was Jesus' placement between two thieves?

Jesus' position between two thieves was contrived to His dishonor, making it appear that He was the worst of the three. It fulfilled the prophecy that He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).

4. What details surrounding Jesus' crucifixion were proofs of His sonship?

The three hours of darkness, the earthquake, the rent veil, and the opened graves all demonstrate divine involvement and invisible power. The centurion, and those with him, watching Jesus and the surrounding events, feared greatly and confirmed Jesus' sonship.

5. What profound truths are revealed in the events of verses 51 and 52?

The consecrating and the opening of a new and living way to God is clearly revealed. God's kingdom was now open to all believers. All can

come boldly to the throne of God.

6. How is true Christianity misunderstood by many today?

Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. The concept that we must die to live is unpopular to many today. Servanthood, discipleship, and a life of sacrifice are foreign to unregenerate mankind.

7. How did Joseph demonstrate his love for Christ?

Joseph was not afraid to go alone and beseech the body of Christ from Pilate. By going to Pilate, he was not secretive about his intentions. His care and concern for the proper care and respect for the dead body of Christ overrode his fear of man. Wrapping Jesus' body in clean linen cloth and then laying it in his own new tomb displayed true sacrifice and love.

8. What truths can we glean from the manner in which Christ was buried?

Jesus' body was claimed in an honorable and peaceable manner. His body wrapped in clean linen cloth speaks of special care and not a haphazard, uncaring approach. Joseph was endeavoring to provide a safe, respectable, clean place for Jesus' body by laying it in his own new tomb hewn out of rock. God saw to it that the Scriptures were fulfilled even concerning Jesus' burial.

Summarizing the Lesson

The story of Jesus' death and the great price that was paid for the redemption of mankind is often misunderstood and little appreciated. But to the child of God, it contains depths of meaning that defy human comprehension.

Faith alone can appropriate the work of Calvary to personal experience.

Research Guide

Reading related Old Testament prophecies is inspirational. Especially review those directly fulfilled in the crucifixion.