

3.17.19 ~ **John 19:17-30, Jesus is Crucified!**

Read John 19:17-22... After Jesus was flogged, He was handed over to be crucified. Jesus was made to carry the horizontal beam of the cross, on which His arms would be stretched out and His hands nailed through His wrists.

Jesus was so weak after the brutal flogging, He couldn't carry His cross, so a man from Cyrene, named Simon (cf. Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26), was made to carry Jesus' cross the rest of the way to the execution site, Golgotha [in *Hebrew*, meaning the "skull place" [Greek, *Kranion*; Latin, *Calvaria*]; it was just outside the north gate of Jerusalem, along the main road.

Note: Executions were to take place outside the city (Numbers 15:35).

Crucifixion was considered a curse (**Galatians 3:13**), "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written (cf **Deuteronomy 21:23**), 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'".

John tells us that two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on either side of Him, and that Pilate placed a sign on the cross above Jesus saying, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

This sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek, so that virtually any person traveling by could read what it said. John tells us in **verse 21** that the chief priests were upset with what the sign above Jesus' head said; they did not want it to state that Jesus was king of the Jews, but only that He had claimed to be king of the Jews. But Pilate would have none of it; for he despised these Jews, especially the religious leaders/rulers and so, his response to them (**verse 22**) was, "What I have written I have written."

As we have previously studied, it was about the third hour (sunrise was 6am, so it was about 9am), when Jesus' wrists were nailed to the horizontal beam, His feet nailed to the vertical beam, at that point, the cross would be dropped into a hole, raising the victim above the earth, where he would endure a slow, agonizing death.

Read John 19:23-25a... There were, most likely, four soldiers in the execution squad; they were dividing up Jesus' belongings, i.e., His head covering, outer garment, belt, and sandals. But because Jesus' tunic was seamless (a one-piece covering for the body, from neck to thighs), the soldiers gambled for His tunic by casting lots (**verse 24**), thus fulfilling **Psalms 22:18**.

Casting lots is similar to flipping a coin, tossing dice, or drawing straws, just a way to determine a winner.

Read John 19:25b-27... Looking at other narratives: Luke tells us (**Luke 23:35**), that the religious leaders were "sneering at Him, saying, 'He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.'"

Matthew tells us (**Matthew 27:39-40**), that people were walking by "hurling abuse at [Jesus], wagging their heads and saying, 'You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.'"

In the midst of this scene, with people mocking and expressing contempt for Jesus, John records a scene of love and compassion.

There were four women and John, standing nearby the cross, evidently close enough to hear Jesus speak, they were: Jesus' mother (Mary), her sister (Salome, *Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40*), another woman identified as Mary (she is thought to be the "other Mary," in *Matthew 27:61; 28:1; Luke 24:10*, who is the mother of James, son of Alphaeus, *Luke 6:15; Acts 1:15*) the wife of Clopas (a variant of Alphaeus,), and lastly, Mary Magdalene.

Jesus tells His mother that John is now her son, and He tells John, that Mary is now to be considered his own mother, and so John takes Mary into his household.

Why did Jesus do this? In the midst of His own horrible pain and suffering, Jesus takes time to show His love for His mother, and His trust in John to care for her. It would seem that Mary's husband (Joseph) is no longer alive, and since Jesus' brothers were not yet believers, Jesus entrusted His mother to His beloved disciple John.

Read John 19:28-30... The time for Christ's death had come (**verse 28**), "knowing that all things had already been accomplished." Jesus fulfills **Psalm 69:21b**, "for My thirst they gave Me *vinegar* to drink." The noun used for *vinegar* in Psalm 69, used in John 19:29, is translated as *sour wine*, a cheap bitter wine used by Roman soldiers.

After Jesus received the *sour wine* (**verse 30**), He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. **Mark 15:33-37** gives us additional narrative.

Read Mark 15:33-37... At the sixth hour [12 noon], the brightest time of the day, darkness covered the land [Gr. Earth]; this darkness lasted about three hours; and at the end of the darkness, about the ninth hour [3 pm], Jesus cried out, My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?"

The Father hid the nakedness and indignation of His beloved Son, in darkness, while bringing judgment upon Him for the sins of mankind. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, all alone, freeing us from sin's condemnation.

Those standing around the cross thought He was crying out to Elijah to save Him, so they mocked Him.

The Son was separated from the Father for the first and only time in eternity, as He took upon Himself the punishment for our sins (**2Corinthians 5:21**), "[God]

made [Christ] who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf," (**Romans 3:24-25**), "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation [to propitiate is *to appease, atone for, remove the enmity between us and God*] in His blood through faith," (**Hebrews 9:22**), "all things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness,"

(**Hebrews 10:8-10**), "...sacrifices for sin You [God the Father] have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them (which are offered according to the Law), 'He takes away the first [covenant, being temporary and external, i.e., the Law with its regulations] in order to establish the second [covenant, being eternal and internal, i.e., Christ in you]'; ...we have been sanctified [made holy, justified, forgiven] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

With a loud cry, "It is finished!" Jesus breathed His last breath, at that moment the old covenant through rituals, ceremonies, and animal sacrifices [under the Law] was set aside, invalid; the new covenant of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ [under Grace], was instituted through the shed blood of God's own Son, and that is the Good News of the Gospel of Christ!

Acts 2:21, "And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [quoting Joel 2:32, 800 B.C.]

Acts 4:12, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

1Peter 3:18, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

Do you understand? Jesus, God's Son, died for our sins. Without His shed blood there is no forgiveness, without forgiveness there is no salvation, and without salvation there is no eternal life in heaven.

In **John 14:6**, Jesus said, "I am the way [to God], the truth [of God], and the life [from God]; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

God the Father is in heaven, and God the Son is at His right hand. God the Holy Spirit lives in (indwells) all those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, making them children of God.

Romans 8:9, "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

1Corinthians 3:16, "Do you not know that ...the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Romans 10:9-10, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses,

resulting in salvation." **13**, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Do you have the assurance of salvation and eternal life? Look, God turns no one away, if you sense God speaking to your heart, don't turn away, don't delay:

Admit that you are a sinner (we all are).

Believe that Jesus died for your sins, because He did!

Confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Demonstrate your new life in Christ by: reading His Word, and obeying what you understand; praying (talking) to Him, continually; fellowshiping with His children (other Christians), by participating and serving in a God-honoring church, live for Him and tell others about Him.

That is the Good News of the Gospel of Christ!