

The Death of Jesus

John 19:16-30

The message before us deals with the actual death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are looking at the day in history when Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit. We do not come this morning to worship a DEAD Jesus. He died, but he is no longer dead. Three days after his dying, He rose victorious over death. He rose bodily from the tomb. His resurrection was overwhelmingly proven by His bodily appearances. He is in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father. HE is soon to return to this earth to get his bride... the Body of Christ.... the church.

We have recorded in the four gospels... his life, his death, his burial, and his resurrection. John 19 is where we are, and we want to consider the following features regarding the *Death of Jesus*:

1. The Crucifixion itself
2. The Inscription placed over his head
- three. The Inspiration of the Scriptures
4. The Obligation of Caring for others
- five. The Completion of our Salvation

I. **The Crucifixion** vv.16-18

Crucifixion was the mode of execution carried out by the Roman authorities. The person convicted and sentenced to die was made to carry a cross beam to the site where the crucifixion would take place. The victims were either nailed or tied to this cross beam and hoisted up on a vertical beam. In our Lord's case, He was nailed to the cross beam, and his feet were nailed to a platform on the vertical beam. The platform helped the victims to push up allowing their chest cavity and diaphragm to inhale and exhale to breathe. To speed up death, the victims' legs were broken to prevent pushing up and thus they died of asphyxiation. If not, criminals hanging on crosses could live several days. Later on in the text we read of the Jews asking Pilate to break the legs so to speed up death and have the bodies removed because it was getting close to the beginning of the Sabbath.

Jesus's legs were not broken because at that point he had already died. It also fulfilled Old Testament prophesy, "not a bone of his body would be broken."

Let us look at a few thoughts concerning the crucifixion of our Lord.

#1 v.17 "**and he went out...**" John, who writes this gospel account, wants us to know that Jesus was crucified outside of the city of Jerusalem.

Also, "he went out" is a fulfillment of the procedures given in Leviticus 4 as to how sacrifices were to be done. The blood of sacrificial animals was brought into the holy place by the high priests as a sacrifice for sin. The bodies of these sacrificial animals were taken outside the camp to be burned.

The Hebrew writer refers to this:

Hebrews 13:11-12

¹¹ For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Jesus WENT OUT - to be crucified... bearing the wrath of God for sinners. Jesus WENT OUT, in order that we might be BROUGHT IN. Jesus was Excluded from God's presence for a moment in time, that we might be Included in God's presence in eternity.

Notice #2 "bearing his own cross" There is a picture of this in the Old Testament. Father Abraham was told by God to take his own son, His son Isaac and offer him up as a sacrifice. Abraham's faith was put to the test. You know the story... Abraham was faithful, and God stopped Abraham from carrying it out.

Here is the picture - Genesis Abraham had the fire.... Isaac, his son, carried the wood. There is the picture.... Isaac carried the wood.....the very wood his body would lay down upon to be burned... and Jesus carried the wood...the very piece of wood upon which he would die.

#3 The place - Skull... called Golgotha.... some say the location was in the shape of a skull.... some say, it is because a lot of skulls were buried there... a place of death

John gives us vivid details... Jesus died.... He carried a cross as other victims did... there was a literal place where it took place. John gives the landscape. This really happened. it was there they crucified him (v.18) John does not record this, but just before they nailed Jesus to the cross, they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, or gall. It was a narcotic drink to ease the pain. Jesus refused the drink.

Mark 15:23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

Jesus suffered with high intensity. His suffering was not diminished a bit. He took the full pain for sin. His agony was not an abbreviated form. He suffered in FULL the punishment for sin.

#4 Between two thieves --- there they crucified him (v.18)

Scriptures fulfilled - Isaiah 53:12 he was numbered with the transgressors.

The innocent Son of God.... was numbered along with criminals. The Innocent dying among the guilty. Jesus never committed a sin. There was no crime pinned on the Lord Jesus.

Go to Isaiah 53....

Isaiah 53:12and he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

Jesus suffered and died between two thieves.... he bore the sin of many....and made intercession for the transgressors.

Jesus made intercession..... for all the people that day.... even for the dying thieves...

Seven statements were made by Jesus while he was hanging on the cross....

Three of the statements are in JOHN, and only found in John.

Three other statements are in LUKE, and only found in LUKE; last one....is found in Matt/Mark.

First statement - *Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do...* (Luke 23:24). Jesus was interceding for sinners.... and we know one of the thieves... repented.... and he said... Jesus will you remember me when you come into your kingdom...?

Second statement - Today, you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43)

We can see the glory of Christ at the Cross... In his crucifixion... he paid the debt for all the redeemed....and in the very act of being crucified...there was ONE criminal...guilty of his crime... was SAVED... was delivered from the penalty of his sins...and went to Heaven that very day.

II. The Inscription vv. 19-22

When a convicted person carried his cross to the place of crucifixion, another person would carry a sign (placard) walking out in front for all to see. The sign would give the crime, or reason for the criminal's execution.

In Jesus 'case.... Pilate had a sign made which read.... **Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**

Many of the Jews read the inscription. The reason so many Jews were able to read it was because the **place where Jesus was crucified was near the city.** The message was publicly displayed for all to see, and it was written in three different languages: Hebrew, or Aramaic, Latin, and in Greek.

Hebrew - the language of the religious Jew; Latin - the language of the powerful Roman; and Greek, the language of the educated and cultured. Here we see the WHOLE WORLD included.

Now Pilate--- did not believe Jesus was, the King of the Jews.

The chief priests of the Jews--- certainly did not believe Jesus was their king.

WHY did Pilate do this?? He did this to “get back” at these Jews. He knew it would infuriate them. The chief priest said.... do not write that! Do not say He is the King of the Jews, write “He said, he was the king of the Jews.”

Pilate responds - What I have written, I have written. Pilate was sick and tired of dealing with these Jews. They had blackmailed him into giving Jesus up to be crucified. About SIX times Pilate said, “If find no fault in him” Pilate gives in to allowing Jesus to be crucified, but he has this sign made to “get even” with the Jews.

Not only the title “king of the Jews” was offensive to the Jews; also saying, Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus the Nazarene.... Nazareth was a town that had nothing of historical importance to the Jews. If you are from Nazareth.... it did not carry any weight on your resume.

Do you remember Philip finding Nathaniel in John 1:45-46 Philip said to Nathaniel “we found him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Nathaniel said to him, **“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”**

The chief priest wanted Pilate to change the wording. PILATE SAID.... what I have written, I have written.

It is going to stay.

Here we see the glory of Christ through the inscription... Jesus is the King of the Jews. He is the King of kings; and Lord of lords. Pilate did not really believe it, yet God used this wicked governor to fulfill God’s purpose to proclaim to all the WORLD.... Jesus is KING! Regardless of if you are Jew...it will not change...Jesus is KING. If you are Gentile...a Roman, or a Greek.... Jesus is King! He is the ONLY King...who can help you. Only King who can save you... Only King to worship.

We bow down to KING JESUS!

... Pilate was always vacillating.... changing his mind... but he said ...What I have written, I have written.... you cannot help but see the hand of God in this.... it’s what God wanted to be written....

You could s. . What GOD HAS WRITTEN.... HE HAS WRITTEN..... you could say...It is God’s Inscription!

So much God has given to the writers of the Scriptures....so much has been written....

LAST verse in John’s Gospel - **John 21:25**

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Here is something written down.... It is God’s Inscription.... for all to read....

God had the Apostle Paul to WRITE DOWN these words...

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

III. The Inspiration vv.23-24

Four soldiers carried out the crucifixion of Jesus. They took the garments of Jesus. It was the procedure at every crucifixion to divide the pieces of clothing among the executioners. There would be the headdress, the belt, the sandals, and the outer robe. The tunic was the inner garment worn against the skin. It was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.... They decided not to tear it, and each piece was given to the four soldiers. They "cast lots" gambled to see whose it shall be.

John writes... **this was to fulfill the Scriptures..... quotes from Psalm 22**

Read **Psalms 22:18** They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.

What happened here at the Cross of Jesus was NOT some incidental EVENT. It was NOT a random occurrence in history. IT WAS a predetermined event.... orchestrated by the foreknowledge of God.

It was prophesied in the Scriptures..... centuries before it ever happened.... the Psalmist David wrote in vivid details.... describing the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ in Psalm 22.

The Glory of Christ is magnified here in the INSPIRATION of the Scriptures! (Read Psalm 22)

I THIRST (John 19:28)

Psalm 69:21 They also gave *me* gall for my food
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

They did not break his legs - Psalm **34:20** not one of his bones are broken.

IV. The Obligation vv.25-27

Standing beneath the cross of Jesus were four women and one other man.

1. His mother - This Mary, the wife of Joseph...who is no longer around, deceased.
2. His mother's sister--- this is no doubt, **Salome**, the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James & John)

3. Mary, the wife of Clopas--- this was the mother of the Apostle James, son of Alphaeus.
4. Mary Magdalene--- from whom seven demons were cast out...

One man - the *disciple whom he loved* ---- this is John (the writer of this Gospel) never refers to himself by using his own name.

Mary, the mother of Jesus - was reminded of what had told her some 30 years ago... Simeon the prophet

Luke 2:35 and a sword will pierce through your own soul as well. The crucifying of Jesus was a devastating thing to Mary... striking her innermost being.... just as Simeon described it back when Jesus was born... A SWORD WILL PIERCE THROUGH YOUR OWN SOUL.

Here we see faithful followers.... they have a sense of OBLIGATION to be there But more than that there is the OBLIGATION the Lord Jesus had being the son of Mary.... He makes sure she is cared for.

Third statement from Jesus on the Cross ---

v.26 Woman, behold thy son (not being disrespectful.... He did not say "Mom" because the relationship is no longer MOM and Son.... Jesus is Her LORD and Savior!

behold thy son.... look to the one who will be to you as a son.... referring to John

Jesus: said to the disciple (John) "Behold, Your Mother" She will now be like your mother. **and from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.**

Jesus fulfills the obligation.... honor thy mother and father.... You take care of those who took care of you.... Jesus was thinking of others. He was displaying compassion for his mother.

V. The Completion vv.28-30

Fourth statement from Jesus - My God, My God because hast thou forsaken me (Matthew 27:46) (Mark 15:34)

Fifth statement from Jesus- **I thirst** (v.28) Jesus "took" this drink. To prolong his life on the cross and not die of thirst. He prolonged his suffering. He took the drink to stay alive on the cross for a few more minutes... Jesus did not seek to end his life without paying in full the price for our sins.

Sixth statement from Jesus - It is finished - Quickly will add. **Seventh statement** is found in Luke 23:46 "Father, into the hands I commend my spirit."

It is finished - an action that speaks of being totally completed. The word is (*tetelestai*).
It means **paid in full.**

he gave up his spirit - no one takes his life... Even in his death Jesus was sovereign in the very moment of when he would die. Victims hanging on crosses were known to be still alive for several days. Jesus chose the time when he would "give up" his spirit.

Just before he died, HE SAID-----It is finished.

Arthur Pink said, "It is not the last gasp of a worn-out life," It is a cry of COMPLETION.

Salvation is completed! The Work of Redemption HAS NOW been accomplished!

FINISHED work of Calvary now makes it possible for sinners to be saved.

There is nothing left to do, but simply in FAITH believe in Christ. And the faith to believe is not a human work, but a gift from a gracious God who desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

I read the testimony of Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission. He grew up in a Christian home, and he resisted coming to Christ. His mother was faithful to pray for him. One day someone gave him a gospel tract entitled "It is finished". He read it and came to a wonderful realization... I quote what he said...

"Then there dawned upon me the joyous conviction that since the whole work was finished and the whole debt was paid upon the cross there was nothing for me to do but to fall upon my knees, accept the Savior and praise him forevermore."

Thank the Lord Jesus... He paid in Full... the penalty of our sins we will never face.... all on Christ was laid our sin, our guilt, our shame....and in Christ we receive a full pardon, full redemption, a full salvation...and a full acceptance as a child of God.

Horatius Bonar - wrote a hymn that captures the beauty of the Cross.... the glories of the Cross...

Upon a Life I did not live

Text: Horatius Bonar

Music: Kevin Twit

1. Upon a Life I have not lived,
Upon a Death I did not die,
Another's Life; Another's Death,
I stake my whole eternity.
2. Not on the tears which I have shed,
Not on the sorrows I have known,
Another's tears; Another's griefs,
On these I rest, on these alone.
3. Lord, I believe; O deal with me,
As one who has Thy Word Believed!

I take the gift, Lord, look on me,
As one who has Thy gift received.

Chorus:

O Jesus, Son of God, I build on what Thy cross has done for me.
There both my death and life I read, my guilt, and pardon there I see.

2012 Kevin Twit Music (ASCAP)¹

-----for Church Bulletin-----

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2nd statement – “Today, you will be with me...” Luke 23:43

II. The Inscription vv. 19-22

Philippians 1:9-11

III. The Inspiration vv. 23-24

Psalms 22:18 Psalm 69:21

IV. The Obligation vv. 25-27

3rd statement – “Woman, behold your son...” v.26

V. The Completion vv. 28-30

4th statement – “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me” Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34

5th statement – “I thirst” v.28

6th statement - “It is finished” v.30

7th statement – “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit” Luke 23:46

¹ [Upon A Life I Did Not Live - Indelible Grace Hymnbook \(igracemusic.com\)](http://www.igracemusic.com)