

Morning Sermon August 4, 2019
"Learning from Losers" John 18:28-32

Who are the losers I am focusing on this morning?

They are the "they" mentioned in this passage, the "them" and "you" and "your" of verses :29 & :31 and the "they" & "we" of verse :30 – :31 "them" "You" "your" "Jews" & "us ...

²⁸ Then **they** led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But **they themselves** did not go into the Praetorium, lest **they** should be defiled, but that **they** might eat the Passover. ²⁹ Pilate then went out to **them** and said, "What accusation do **you** bring against this Man?" ³⁰ **They** answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, **we** would not have delivered Him up to you." ³¹ Then Pilate said to **them**, "**You** take Him and judge Him according to **your** law." Therefore **the Jews** said to him, "It is not lawful for **us** to put anyone to death," ³² that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. John 18:28-32

I. They were missing the meaning of the Passover, and much more, and because of that they were missing the Messiah –

²⁸ Then **they** led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But **they themselves** did not go into the Praetorium, lest **they** should be defiled, but that **they** might eat the Passover. John 18:28

1. It is obvious these people were "missing" their Messiah, they were not recognizing Jesus as their Savior. Surely, they were not understanding Isaiah's prophecy –

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He* was bruised

for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1-6

2. But they were also clueless about themselves ...

The entire sacrificial system, from God's clothing Adam and Eve with animal skins onward, was about sacrifices for SIN!

Even the Passover was such a sacrifice, what God was bringing with that Tenth Plague was judgment, wrath upon sin, and without the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts, even the Israelites would have been subject to wrath and judgment; just as anyone else.

3. Here is their problem

A. They lead Jesus Who is sinless, to the Praetorium, to be judged

B. They won't go in lest they be defiled, by contact with Gentiles, as if they were perfectly righteous

C. They do this despite the bright light of Christ –

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

D. They do this despite the light of God's Word –

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

They had studied God's Word, but had not benefitted from it, they had not gotten, really sought "understanding" –

² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:2B – 5

Understanding is connected with humility, and the fear of the LORD –

⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. Psalm 25:9

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10

II. *Their missing of the meaning leads to making the wrong application, leading Jesus to judgment and death –*

²⁹ Pilate then went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” ³⁰ They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” John 18:29-30

1. *They did not know themselves. They were sinners. Jesus had told them as much –*

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. John 8:34

They should have, could have understood these things from the Old Testament, if enabled by God’s Spirit, yet they do not ...

2. *Their wrong understanding leads to wrong application –*

Consider their arrogance:

A. *Pilate asks a reasonable question “What accusation do you bring against this Man? John 18:29*

B. *They expect Judgment without real evidence / They expect to be trusted by Pilate without evidence - ³⁰ They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” John 18:30*

They are saying, the fact that “WE” have brought Him before you should be evidence enough ... The implication is “we” are always righteous, “we” are always just!

¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. Luke 18:11

These think themselves not only better than tax-collectors, but better than Christ ...

III. *Their making the wrong application results in manifesting the monster (the obvious sin of desiring Christ’s death) -*

³¹ Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” ³² that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. John 18:28-32

1. *Note, Pilate sees right through them :31*

A. *He does not want to be bothered by them.*

B. *It is obvious Christ is innocent*

2. *But they want Jesus dead - :31B*

3. *This is a monstrous sin on their part, the guilty judge and will kill the innocent!*

4. *Yet, this was God’s will for Jesus, and His will for our salvation –*

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:27-28

God is right in the crucifixion of Christ as right as the people who brought it about were wrong.

Like with Joseph and his brothers –

²⁰ But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. Genesis 50:20

Jesus’ death was planned –

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, (*worship the beast*) whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8

Application:

1. *Make sure you understand before you apply*

2. *You are a sinner / Christ is the Savior*

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