

The Death of Jesus March 28, 2021

When have you been frustrated by your inability to fix something?

- get the chainsaw/lawnmower/string trimmer running
- neighbor is uncooperative
- Internet/cable price keeps going up
- dripping faucet or slow drain
- receiving Robo or spam calls

Some things we just cannot fix on our own or it is out of our hands.

- A broken relationship with God is certainly one of those things.
- Forgiveness is possible only because Jesus died for our sins.
- We often speak of our love for others and material things, but we will never have the depth of love that God has for us. He sent His Son to bear the punishment for our sins.

John 19:8-11 (NIV) When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, 9 and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

What do you think Pilate was afraid of?

- Jesus *might* be a king
- political trouble with the Romans
- really didn't want to condemn an innocent man
- his wife had a bad dream about all this

Pilate asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" Jesus was silent. In Isaiah 53:7, Isaiah said that the Messiah would not open His mouth. Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you know I have authority to release you or to have you crucified?" Then Jesus told him that he would have no authority unless it was given to him from above. God was in control just as He is today. God is accomplishing His purposes no matter what choices we make.

How does God's authority differ from the authority exercised by institutions in your life?

- as individuals we have a free will to make choices
- the institutions in our lives (local, state, federal government, businesses, etc.) are run by humans who make choices based on profit and loss or by politics
- their power and authority are granted by Sovereign God
- whatever these people or institutions do, God will still maintain His ultimate control

John 19:16-18 (NIV) 16b So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). 18 Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate gave in to his fears and public pressure and sentenced Jesus to die. Roman soldiers were assigned to the execution. Jesus experienced physical, emotional and spiritual pain associated with going to the cross.

He was whipped.

He was publicly humiliated.

He had to carry His own cross. This identified Him as a criminal.

Jesus was led to Golgotha or the hill called the Place of the Skull.

Jesus was crucified between two men who were considered to be thieves according to Matthew and Mark. Luke referred to them as evil.

The soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes.

They offered Him sour wine to drink.

For Jesus, the cross was not a tool of death, but a doorway to life and eternal glory.

What emotions do you experience when you think about Jesus' crucifixion?

- outrage that an innocent and righteous man ... God Himself ... was executed
- cannot imagine the physical, emotional and spiritual suffering He endured for the sins of all mankind
- grateful for the forgiveness He has provided

When have you been overwhelmed by the sacrifice Jesus made for you?

- when I fail Him
- when I have a pity party about myself, things aren't going my way
- when I experience a difficult situation and I don't turn to God for help
- I'm reminded of His sacrifice during the Lord's Super (communion)

John 19:28-30 (NIV) Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus demonstrated His humanity when He said He was thirsty. He was dehydrated and it was a physical response to His condition. His thirst and His death indicated He was completely human. When He received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished." This was His final moment of physical death. He was about to be separated from God the Father. He took the punishment for us.

What do you find hopeful about Jesus' declaration, "It is finished"?

- we don't have to be separated from God
- we can have an ongoing personal relationship with God, even though we don't deserve it

- As a believer, we will spend eternal life in Heaven with God.

Why is the crucifixion of Jesus an essential element of the gospel?

- it was God's plan
- He took our punishment
- He made it possible for us to be forgiven
- God's righteousness is satisfied
- God's holiness requires punishment of sin, He took it upon Himself in the person of Jesus

How would you describe the importance of the cross to someone who needed to hear it?

- we are all sinners
- sin had to be punished
- Jesus' death and resurrection keeps us from being separated from God.
- Jesus took our place ... dying for us on the cross
- We can choose to accept and believe and we will live eternal life with Him

Application

Give thanks.

- Reflect on the salvation we have in Jesus
- Thank Him for forgiving our sins.

Share the message.

- The forgiveness and salvation Jesus provided through His death is available to all.
- Share this truth with a friend who does not know Jesus.