

The Crucifixion John 19:16b-24

Last Sunday: Part II of Christ's Civil Trial before Pilate

"So he delivered him over to them to be crucified" (Jn. 19:16a). After repeatedly pronouncing Jesus innocent, Pilate now sins against his own conscience, giving himself over to greater sin.

Today: The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

- Is. 53:10, "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief..."
- Why would God punish His Son in this extreme way?
- 2 Cor. 5:21, "God made him who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- John Calvin, "We ought to consider, on the one hand, the dreadful weight of his wrath against sin, and, on the other hand, his infinite goodness towards us. In no other way could our guilt be removed than by the Son of God becoming a curse for us ... Assuredly we are prodigiously stupid, if we do not plainly see in this mirror with what abhorrence God regards sin; and we are harder than stones, if we do not tremble at such a judgment as this."

19:17 - "The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha"

Matthew Henry writes of two traditions associated with this location:

1. This is Mount Moriah where Abraham offered up Isaac. (2 Chr. 3:1 – place of the temple)
2. This is the burial spot of Adam. "Where death triumphed over the first Adam there the second Adam triumphed over him." (Origen, Cyprian, Augustine, Jerome, etc.)

The other gospels include additional information about the Via Dolorosa ("Way of Suffering"):

- Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus' cross (Mt. 27:32, Mk. 15:21, Lk. 23:26). The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross once Christ was no longer able to carry it.
- The mourning of the people, especially the women. Lk. 23:28-31, "But turning to them Jesus said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!" Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us," and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'"

Mt. 27:34 adds additional information at the cross: "They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall (myrrh), but when he tasted it, he would not drink it." Why would Jesus not drink it?

1. The drink was a narcotic to help ease the pain, but he wanted to be completely in control of his senses so as to rightly obey his Father and die for the world.

2. The drink was a form of torment that amused the soldiers. Adding myrrh to the wine made it so bitter, it was undrinkable (Carson). Could this be a fulfillment of Ps. 69:21, “They gave me poison for food”?

Applications:

1. Christ endured the curse of God the Father upon sin so that we would not be cursed.
2. Christ’s sacrifice for sin is completely sufficient to save us.
3. Christ is our sacrifice, yet He is also the pattern for us to follow.
Heb. 13:11-13, “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**. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. **Therefore let us** go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.”

Some examples of going to him outside the camp and bearing Christ’s reproach:

1. Crucifying our desires and our dreams in order to follow His plans
2. Standing alone against the world who are in darkness
3. Enduring persecution, yet loving and praying for those who persecute you
4. Proclaiming the gospel to all, even to those who do not want to hear it
5. Embracing our Father’s will for our lives, even if it means suffering and death