

Lighthouse Bible Church

October 5th, 2014

John 19: 17 – 42

‘The Sovereign Death and Burial of Jesus’

Stand – Read – Pray

As we continue to look at the book of John, even in the arrest, trials, torture and eventual crucifixion of our Lord, God is in absolute control of every event taking place. Nothing is happening apart from God’s sovereign plan in leading Jesus to His death by crucifixion and His burial.

And by the way, God uses both sinful men and righteous men to carry out His perfect will. And His will was to come to this earth in human form in the person of Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, living a sinless life and sacrificing Himself in a most cruel death for the redemption of mankind.

And what, from man’s perspective, appears to be a lying disciple, a hostile religious group, a frenzied mob of people shouting crucify Him and a weak willed governor in Jerusalem bringing about all these events; is far more. It is God controlling every aspect of every detail. That is why I titled this message the SOVEREIGN death and burial of Jesus.

In **John 19: 16** where we left off last time, it says **Pilate DELIVERED Jesus to be crucified**. If you were to look at **Romans 8: 32** it says **God did not spare His own Son but DELIVERED Him up for us all**. The same word, *paradidimee*. God is in control.

In **Acts 3: 13** it says **the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the God of our fathers glorified His Servant Jesus whom you DELIVERED up and denied in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let Him go**.

But then in **Acts 2: 23** it says about Jesus **Him being DELIVERED by the determined purposes and foreknowledge of God, you have taken and crucified.**

Let me remind you how this sovereign hand of God has played out so far. Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and we saw how He controlled that entire event there. And as we saw last time, the only reason He was arrested was because the Jewish religious leaders hated Him and were jealous and envious of Him and they wanted Him dead, but because of Roman law could not do it themselves.

We saw Him being falsely tried and convicted by the Jewish religious leaders who didn't even follow their own laws when it came to trying someone in court. They brought false witnesses in and there was no legitimate charge against Him and yet they wanted Him executed.

We saw Jesus being handed over to Pilate to be the executioner. They wanted Jesus to die the most horrible death possible and that is a death by crucifixion.

Pilate, several times, said he found no fault in Jesus and had no reason to execute Him, Herod found no fault in Him and Pilates wife called Him a just man, but Pilate eventually gave in to the crowds for fear of his own position and for fear of what Tiberius Caesar might do to him.

Pilate tried appeasing the people by having Jesus scourged and presenting Him as a bloody pathetic man and not the king of the Jews as they say He claimed. But that didn't work, they didn't want Him bloody and beaten, they wanted Him dead. And the cry from all the people was to crucify Him, crucify Him.

So Pilate gives the order to have Him crucified Verse 16 says **then they delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.** And by the way, Matthew, Mark and Luke all record that Jesus was **LED away to be crucified.** And in so doing, were fulfilling the prophecy of **Isaiah 53: 7:** that said **He was LED as a lamb to the slaughter.** And that is where we want to pick it up this morning in Verses 17 – 18.

Verses 17 - 18: and He, bearing His cross went out to a place called the **Place of the Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus is the center.**

John says that Jesus **bore His own cross** to start with. Whether it was the cross beam or the entire cross is unclear but the type of cross He was crucified on is clear. It had to be a typical cross that we understand like a T but extended higher above the cross beam.

One reason it has to be this was is because Mark and Luke say that the inscription that Pilate wrote was above Him and Matthew makes it very clear that it was above His head **Matthew 27: 37** says.

As we have already seen, Jesus is fulfilling prophecies about Himself as well as fulfilling types of Himself in the Old Testament. What was the O.T. animal sacrificial system pointing to? The lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world, right?

Remember in **Genesis 22** when Abraham and Isaac were heading to Mount Mariah and Isaac was going to be sacrificed. This was a picture of the Father sacrificing His Son Jesus. In that passage in **Genesis 22: 6** it says that **Abraham took the wood of the burn offering and LAID it on his son Isaac.** Well, God is doing the same thing here.

Notice that John 19: 17 it says **He went out to a place**. He went out of where? Out of Jerusalem. He had to, for two reasons. One, the Romans had a law that no one could be crucified inside the city limits, inside the city gates.

Number two, Jesus was again fulfilling scripture as the ultimate sin offering to God. In **Exodus 29: 14**, **Leviticus 4: 12**, and **Leviticus 16: 27** say this **the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought into make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp.**

Now listen to what **Hebrews 13: 11 – 12** says **for the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. THEREFORE Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.**

The place He was taken was **the place of the skull** which in **Hebrew is Golgotha**. If you look in a Pictorial Bible Encyclopedia they will have a picture of what they believe is the place of the skull and will tell you that there are only 2 viable places where the tomb may be.

Verse 18: where they crucified Him and two others with Him, one on either side and Jesus in the center.

Interestingly enough every account of Jesus' crucifixion says basically the same thing **then they crucified Him**. Nothing more is said. Crucifixion would entail ...

And Jesus had to die that way, as we have seen, to fulfill scripture. Not only by the words of His own mouth to the disciples earlier as to how He would die but way back in the Old Testament.

Remember in **Numbers 21** how the people of God, once again, complained that they would have been better off back in Egypt. So God sends **fiery serpents** to bite them and many of them died. So they confessed their sin to Moses and to God and God said in **Numbers 21: 8 – 9** to Moses to **make a fiery serpent and put it on a pole and when anyone is bitten and they look at the bronze serpent they shall live.**

Well, in **John 3: 14 – 15** says as **Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.** Later in **John 12: 32 – 33** Jesus said **if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said signifying by what death He would die.** So He had to die by crucifixion. Who is in control here?

You can read in **Psalms 22** the events surrounding a crucifixion that David, the writer, knew nothing about. He writes in **Verse 16** **they pierced my hands and my feet. He writes my strength is dried up ... my tongue clings to my jaw ... I can count all my bones they are all out of joint.** There was only one person who was ever crucified and lived to tell about it and that was Jesus Himself.

Notice that Verse 18 of John 19 says that **two others were crucified with Him** and He was in the middle of them. Two criminals and Jesus in the middle crucified as a common criminal. But notice, that even in this He was fulfilling scripture. Jesus Himself said that in **Luke 22: 37** **that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me and He was numbered with the transgressors** which is taken from **Isaiah 53: 12.**

Verses 19- 22: **Now Pilate wrote a title and put in on the cross, as we have already seen, above His head, and the writing was: this is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews** adding all four accounts together.

When a person was condemned to die by crucifixion his crime was written on a piece of wood and then either hung around his neck as he is taken to the place of crucifixion and then nailed above his head, or held by a soldier so all the crowd could see his crime.

The Jews didn't like what Pilate had written and wanted him to change it and he said he would not. I think that it may have been Pilate's way of getting back at the Jews for putting him in that predicament in the first place. Pilate says **what I have written I have written.**

Verses 23 – 24 Read

After the soldiers put Jesus on the cross and were waiting there, they began to divide His clothing. The Roman soldiers crucified in **squads** of 4 soldiers and each soldier got a piece of clothing of the person being crucified. In this case there were 5 parts of clothing that Jesus had that the soldiers took.

Each soldier casted lots, according to **Mark 15: 24:** , and took a piece of clothing that they wanted until there was only 1 piece left, the **tunic that was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.**

So the soldiers decide to cast lots for it as well and notice that when they did it says **that the scripture might be fulfilled which says they divided My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots.**

These Roman soldiers who knew nothing about the Old Testament scriptures were actually fulfilling them to the very letter by what they were doing. You can read about it back in **Psalm 22: 18** **they divided My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots.**

Verses 25 – 27: Read:

There are several women mentioned that stood near the cross along with Jesus' mother and the apostle John, **Verse 26** says **the disciple whom He loved standing by**. Think of all the suffering and agony that Jesus is going through while on the cross, bleeding and dying for our sins, and notice what He does.

Jesus says in Verses 26 – 27 **woman behold your son then He said to the disciple, behold your mother. And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.**

Do you get the sense of the love of Jesus that He willingly puts aside His own pain and anguish to comfort His mother who is now heartbroken at the sight of her Son on the cross dying and for John losing the one He loves being given His mother to comfort Him.

As the Scriptures record, Jesus also showed love and forgiveness to the thief on the cross, who had just earlier, mocked and derided Him. *explain.*

Verses 28 – 30 Read

Jesus **knowing that all things were now accomplished**. His mission is now completed. He knows that, because He is God and has watched every detail of scripture be fulfilled to the very letter.

Now there is just one thing left that will **fulfill the final scripture** so that He can die, so that He can give His life. So to fulfill the final scripture Jesus says **I thirst**. This was a fulfillment of **Psalms 69: 21** which said **for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink**. And that is just what they do. Read 29 – 30a.

In Verse 30 it says **so when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is Finished’**. Actually **Matthew 27: 50** and **Mark 15: 37** say that **He cried out with a loud voice ‘it is finished’**.

He didn't say 'I am finished' He said it is finished. The work of redemption had been completed and Jesus **bowed His head, and gave up His spirit**. No one took His life, He gave it because all that had been written about Him was now accomplished. Remember He said in **John 10: 17 – 18** **I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have the power to lay it down and I have power to take it again.**

He had now born the sins of the world and accomplished what He came to do and would now go to be with the Father and the glory they had before the world ever was.

Verses 31 – 37: *Read*

Verse 31 says that it was the **preparation day** which would have been Friday and the **Sabbath** was Saturday. The Jews had an Old Testament law in **Deuteronomy 21: 22 – 23** which says **if a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.**

They could not leave Jesus hanging on the cross since He already died, they needed to bury Him before the next day, which was the Sabbath, which was about 3 hours from then. The Sabbath started at 6:00 pm.

Do you see the hypocrisy in that? They just killed their Messiah after several unjust trials, lying witnesses, brutal illegal beatings, scourging and crucifixion and now they want to keep this miniscule law? But as we have seen before, that is what legalism does; it strains the gnat and swallows the camel.

And so they went to the two criminals and broke their legs, which would allow them to die faster *explain*. But when they came to Jesus, He was already dead. To make sure Jesus was dead, one of the soldiers took a **spear and PIERCED**, Verse 34 says, **His side and blood and water came out.**

John, who was there, **testifies to the truth** of what happened, Verse 35 says and as he will say again later **that you may believe**. These events are true and documented by John as an evangelistic tool to save the lost.

And not only that he says this incredible statement in Verses 36 – 37 which says **for these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘not one of His bones shall be broken (Psalm 34: 20) and again another scripture says, ‘they shall look on Him whom they pierced (Zechariah 12: 10 and Psalm 22: 16 – 17** even in His death He is in control.

Verses 38 – 42

Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a secret disciple of Jesus, but yet a **prominent member of the council** comes to Pilate and asks for His body. **Mark 15: 43** says **he came taking courage** or courageously or boldly. Joseph of Arimathaea was part of the Jewish religious leaders **and a prominent member of the council** Marks gospel tells us and Matthew tells us he was very rich. **Luke 23: 50** tells us that he was a dissenting vote for Jesus’ crucifixion.

By the way **Isaiah 53: 9** says that **His grave would be with the rich at His death**. Any number of things could have happened with Jesus' body, but this had to happen. Even in His death He is in control.

Joseph is risking his place in the Sanhedrin and all that he possesses coming to Pilate and asking for the body of Jesus because now He is no longer a 'secret disciple'. Pilate grants Joseph permission to take the body of Jesus. Joseph has just a short time to get Jesus into the ground before the Sabbath begins; remember this is Friday and Jesus has to be in the ground how long according to His own statement in **Matthew 12: 40 as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the great fish, so the Son of Man will ...**

In Verse 39 it says **now Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night** brings about **100 pounds of myrrh and aloes**. Here is another secret disciple who is risking everything.

They wrap Jesus up and prepare Him for burial **as was the Jewish custom Verse 40 says**. Then took Him to a place close by where He was crucified, a garden area and a tomb that **no one had yet been laid**. This was Joseph of Arimethia's tomb that he had hewn out.

It had to be close so they could get Him in the ground before 6:00 pm. Who is in control, even after His death, He is still orchestrating everything to fulfill scripture and glorify the Father. He is controlling every detail.

If He can do that in His own life and death and burial, what do you think He can and does in your life today? *Look to the Lord's Table*

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Romans 8: 32, Acts 3: 13, Acts 2: 23, Isaiah 53: 7

Verses 17 – 18:

Matthew 27: 37, Genesis 22: 1 – 14
Exodus 29: 14, Leviticus 4: 12, 16: 27
Hebrews 13: 11 – 12, Numbers 21: 1 – 9
John 12: 32 – 33, Psalm 22: 1 – 16, Luke 22: 37
Isaiah 53: 12

Verses 19 – 24:

Mark 15: 24, Psalm 22: 18

Verses 26 – 30:

Psalm 69: 21, Matthew 27: 50, Mark 15: 37
John 10: 17 – 18

Verses 31 – 37:

Deuteronomy 21: 22 – 23, Psalm 34: 20
Zechariah 12: 10, Psalm 22: 16 – 17

Verses 38 – 42:

Mark 15: 43, Luke 23: 50, Isaiah 53: 9
Matthew 12: 40

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Mark 15: 24, Psalm 22: 18

Verses 26 – 30:

Psalm 69: 21, Matthew 27: 50, Mark 15: 37
John 10: 17 – 18

Verses 31 – 37:

Deuteronomy 21: 22 – 23, Psalm 34: 20
Zechariah 12: 10, Psalm 22: 16 – 17

Verses 38 – 42:

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