

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

April 17, 2022

Today, I want to talk about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the two most important events in the history of mankind. What Jesus did for us and this world is most significant, is life changing, is eternally consequential. Today, I want to look at God's word and see what it says about Jesus' suffering, death, and, and how it affects our lives.

1. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. Lk. 22:39-46. This was the night before He was crucified and died. Jesus knew the importance of getting with His Father, where He could pray, pour out His heart, be comforted, and strengthened for what was to take place. Jesus knew the spiritual suffering and pain He'd be going through. He knew that the sin of all these sinners would be placed on Him, that His Father would be pouring out His wrath on Him, that He'd be separated from His Father for the first time ever. Psalm 22 - Jesus was in such great agony, such severe spiritual and physical pain that He was sweating drops of blood. Yet Jesus was humble and willing to do what His Father wanted Him to do. Jesus was also thinking of the disciples, and He exhorted them to be praying so that they themselves would not fall into temptation and sin.

2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas. Luke 22:47-53. Jesus and His disciples are on the Mount of Olives. And Judas is leading a crowd of people, which includes the chief priests and elders, as well as Roman soldiers, and their purpose is to arrest Him. Now Jesus had loved Judas perfectly, but Judas comes up and betrays Jesus with a kiss. How evil and how sad. But God was sovereign - it was just what He wanted to happen. Acts 2:22-24 - During this time one of the disciples cut off the ear of a slave of the high priest. He was trying to stop what was being done to Jesus. Now Jesus could've stopped this, but He knew it was the will of His Father. And so Jesus' responds by healing this man. Matt. 26:52-54

3. Jesus is arrested by the Roman authorities. Luke 22:54. Now the Jewish leaders are using the Roman military to get Jesus arrested. And here is Jesus, and He was completely innocent, a perfect man. And here are the disciples and they're afraid and they leave Jesus, they all flee. And so no one is there to defend Him. And so in the middle of the night, they take Jesus' from the Mount of Olives to the high priest's house, where they had these illegal proceedings. And the sole purpose of this unjust trial is to trump up charges against Jesus so they can put Him to death.

4. Peter's denial of Jesus. Luke 22:55-62. Peter was Jesus' number one disciple, and he followed Jesus to the house of the high priest, and was outside with the soldiers. That Peter went there showed his love for Jesus. But Peter, out of fear, still denies Jesus. And this must have been hard for Jesus, for He had perfectly and greatly loved Peter. - Luke 22:61. Even during this time, Jesus was thinking about others, and here He turns around and looks at Peter. I believe it was a look of sadness mixed with mercy and love.

5. The Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court, tries Jesus. Luke 22:66-71. It was a long night and it was now morning, and Jesus had no sleep. Most everybody there is against Him and hates Him. And they want to quickly try Him. Jesus was physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted, and yet out of love for His Father and for us, He kept going. - Then they ask Jesus the most important question: are you the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God? And you know what? Jesus admits that He was. Ps. 110:1. This was all Jesus' enemies needed, for Jesus stating that He was God was blasphemy, which was punishable by death. But as we know, Jesus is the Son of God. Matt. 26:59-67

6. Jesus is before Pilate, the governor. (Lk. 23:1-7). Jesus is now taken to Pilate, the Rome-appointed political leader of Israel. The Jews knew they had to get the Roman authorities involved in Christ's execution, and so they're taking their case to Pilate. And they make these charges to Pilate that He's telling people He is the Christ, and that He's a King, and of course, both these things are true. Now Pilate didn't care about the Jewish religion, whether Jesus was the Christ or not, He was concerned whether He was the King, for that would be a threat to his own position and rule. Pilate then asks Jesus if He's a King and Jesus admits He is. But Pilate didn't see him as a threat to his rule, and that He was guilty of any crime, and so he wants to let him go.

Of course, the Jewish religious leaders totally disagree with Pilate about Jesus not being guilty, and Pilate doesn't want to be forced by the Jews to say Jesus is guilty. More of Pilate's conversation with Jesus is in John's gospel. Jn. 18:33-38. And Jesus talks about His kingdom and that He's a King. And He tells Pilate that He wants to testify to the truth, which is the truth of the gospel, that He's not just a King but also a Savior.

7. Jesus is before Herod. (Luke 23:8-12). Herod was glad to finally meet Jesus, One He had heard so much about. Herod asks Jesus all these questions, and Jesus doesn't say a thing, which was prophesied in Is. 53:7. Why should Jesus' answer a fool's question? He'd be wasting His breath - Herod wasn't going to listen to Him. And the Jewish leaders hate Jesus with a passion, and they, along with the soldiers, are verbally assaulting Jesus. Then the soldiers mock Jesus by dressing Him in this beautiful robe. And Jesus was so restrained, so controlled, so patient, and at peace. - Matt. 27:29-31. But there's nothing Herod can do and so he sends Jesus back to Pilate.

8. Jesus is sentenced to death. Luke 23:13-23. Pilate is in a quandary. He knows Jesus does not deserve to die. But he has to deal with the Jewish leaders, and they're furious when he tells them that he and Herod believe Jesus is innocent, that He's not guilty. The tradition was to release one prisoner, and so Pilate was thinking of a compromise, and told the religious leaders he'd punish Jesus and release Barabbas, but they would not agree to this. Release Barabbas and crucify Jesus is what they kept shouting.

Finally, Pilate gives in to the leaders and to this crowd, this mob, and he releases Barabbas. Now Jesus is listening to all this. He sees the evil in these leaders. He thinks of how He has loved all these people, and done so much for them, and He knows He's the answer for their sins, and that they're rejecting Him, which He knows will result in their eternal death. I can't help but think that Jesus is praying, that He's talking to His Father, that the Spirit is comforting Him. And Jesus knows God is sovereign, that this is all God's plan. Ps. 22

9. Jesus is scourged. Matt. 27:26. None of us can imagine how difficult this would have been for Jesus. Being scourged had to have been extremely, excruciatingly painful, one of the hardest things anyone can go through. And Jesus didn't deserve it.

10. Jesus carries His cross. Luke 23:26-31. The place of the crucifixion, called Golgotha, is a little ways away, and as John 19:17 tells us, Jesus has to carry His own cross, but He is so weak that He needs this other man named Simon to help Him. And here's Jesus walking, seeing all these people He knew, friends, foes, people He loved and had taught. And I'm sure all kinds of things, both good and bad, were being said to Him. But you see His love for the people, and how He was thinking of others, and He warns the women of this coming wrath, and He's referring to the Roman's destruction of Jerusalem.

11. Jesus is crucified and dies. Luke 23:33-49. Jesus is nailed to a cross - He's crucified. And He's crucified between 2 real criminals, and they deserve to die, but one is repentant and Jesus saves him, and then says to him, "*Today you will be with Me in paradise.*"

- The soldiers there are gambling off His clothes, which had been prophesied.
- The apostle John is standing there, and Jesus tells Him to take care of His mother.
- Jesus asks His Father to forgive people of their sins, people whose sins He was actually dying for at that time. And this is another amazing evidence of Jesus' love for people.

At high noon everything goes dark, and God poured out His wrath on His Son, and this went on for 3 straight hours. Jesus cried out. "*My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me.*" But God had to forsake His own Son; He was punishing Him, for He had taken our sins upon Himself. What an amazing act of love. Rom. 5:8, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 3:18, Is. 53:6-7, Lk. 23:46

12. Jesus is buried. Luke 23:50-56. Jesus had physically died, and immediately upon death His Spirit left His body, and went to be with His Father in heaven, where He also met the criminal who had gotten saved, who in God's eyes was no longer a criminal. Jesus was then taken down from the cross by Joseph, a secret disciple of Jesus, and Nicodemus, who must have become a believer. They anointed Him with 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes, and placed Him in Joseph's tomb, where no one had yet been laid.

13. Jesus is raised from the dead. Luke 24:1-12. There are a lot of details from the four Gospels about the glorious resurrection and the days that followed.

- The women close to Jesus, and Peter and John, went to the tomb and saw it was empty, that Jesus was gone, and had indeed been raised from the dead, and they were in shock, bewildered, afraid, but also joyful.

- Over the next 40 days Jesus appeared to hundreds of people, ones who were witnesses to the truth of Jesus and His resurrection. Acts 10:40-41, 1 Cor. 15:3-8

- And that Jesus was raised from the dead is a fact, a historical fact, and one of the most important truths in all the world.

- When Jesus was raised from the dead, He was glorified, He received a brand-new body, one that's perfect, powerful, immortal, and glorious.

14. Christians can live a Christ-like life. Gal. 2:20. That Jesus was resurrected means you've spiritually been raised from the dead, and that you are righteous in God's sight. But you also have all the power you need to live a victorious, Christ-like life. Eph. 1:19-20 Christ's resurrection also means that you'll be glorified someday, and this happens when Christ returns. 1 Cor. 15:20-22

- And in the ages to come, you'll be perfectly loving and serving Christ, you'll always be filled with joy, love, and peace. And you'll receive an inheritance, and you'll reign with Christ. You'll have a wonderful and glorious life, and it all goes back to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for you. And it's also for His glory. Psalm 145