

Sermon Outline July 31, 2016

"Piercing Jesus' Side"

Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34-37; Revelation 1:5-7

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10 NKJ)

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not *one* of His bones shall be broken."³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced." (John 19:34-37 NKJ)

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:5-7 NKJ)

I. Who did it?

- 1. Zechariah 12:10 speaks of a Spirit of grace and supplication and then says "they" will look on Me whom "they" pierced!*

The House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem are mentioned and therefore they are the piercers!

- 2. However John 19:34 clearly says one of the soldiers pierced His side, yet, in verse :37 refers to this as a fulfillment of the Zechariah 12:10 passage –*

A. It is obvious from this verse only one person used the spear to pierce Jesus' side.

B. The broader context indicates no one else intended to pierce Jesus' side –

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.³¹ Therefore, because it

was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. (John 19:30-33 NKJ)

The Jews desire was that their legs might be broken, not specifically that Jesus would be pierced, so in what sense were they guilty of piercing Him?

- C. Their desire to have Him dead culminated in piercing His side, in that sense they were guilty of piercing Him –*

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." (John 19:6 NKJ)

But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" (John 19:15 NKJ)

- 3. In this broader sense all had their part in His being pierced –*

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 53:4-6 NKJ)

What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:9-11 NKJ)

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19 NKJ)

- II. This is the purpose and power of the Lord's Supper and of preaching, that we might look upon Him, Whom we pierced, in a saving way –*

- 1. It is by the power of God's Spirit we see Christ's cross and death rightly -*

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

2. *This happened for Peter's hearers at Pentecost –*

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:36-37 NKJ)

3. *The cross of Christ is the way of salvation, both for Jews and Greeks –*

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

A. *This is what Paul preached –*

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJ)

B. *Of course the cross does not have power for you unless you realize its purpose, Jesus suffered and died for you, your sins led to His crucifixion, your sins resulted in His being pierced –*

C. *We do not see or understand these things except aided by God's Holy Spirit –*

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

D. *The ungodly think the cross to be foolishness; they don't see it as the result of their sins. They do not believe their sins deserved such an ill treatment as the cross, or Hell!*

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. (2 Corinthians 4:3-5 NKJ)

However this spiritual blindness on the part of the lost will one day be removed –

III. *One day every eye will see Him –*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Revelation 1:5-7 NKJ)

1. *The saved are those washed in Christ's blood, they have realized and understood before it is too late!*

"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. (Zechariah 13:1 NKJ)

There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day,
And there may I, as vile as he, Wash all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme And shall be till I die.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed church of God Be saved to sin no more.

William Cowper

2. *Those mentioned in Revelation 1:7, seem to realize this too late, He will come to Judge the earth, the Lamb Who was slain will come with wrath –*

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" ¹⁷ "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:15-17 NKJ)

3. *We who are Christ's see and celebrate what He did -*

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22:19-20 NKJ)

Arnold Brewick