

Morning Sermon September 22, 2019

“Casting Lots for Christ’s Clothing” John 19:23-24

I. See in the soldiers dividing and casting lots for Christ’s clothing, the fulfilment of prophecy –

<sup>23</sup> Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. <sup>24</sup> They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, *and for My clothing they cast lots.*” Therefore the soldiers did these things. John 19:23–24 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:18 (NKJV)

What we read in John 19:23-24 is an obvious and detailed fulfilment of what we read in Psalm 22. Psalm 22, is that glorious Psalm of David, which starts with the words –

<sup>1</sup> My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)

Powerful, emotional words, which Christ cried from the cross!  
Reading Psalm 22, it is hard to see where its various parts fit with David’s life, apart from his connection to Jesus ...  
It is easy to see Psalm 22’s fulfilment in Christ’s cross!

Here the words about the division of Christ’s clothing among the soldiers is just the start of a series of fulfilments of Scripture noted by John:

- In John 19:28–30, we read of Jesus receiving sour wine / vinegar in fulfilment of Psalm 69:21 –... **And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Psalm 69:21 B**
- In John 19:31-33, we read of the decision not to break Jesus’ legs, which fulfilled what was prophesied in Psalm 34:20

**He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Psalm 34:20**

- In John 19:34-37, we read of the piercing of Christ’s side which fulfilled the first part chronologically of what is prophesied in Zechariah 12:10 –

“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

This particular prophecy looks forward to Pentecost, Acts 2, however, the actual piercing is a necessary part of the fulfillment –

For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.” John 19:36-37

The prophecy / fulfillment we see here, shows:

1. God is in control!
2. The Bible, including such accurate fulfilled prophecy is God’s Word! Meaning, the Word of the All-seeing, All-knowing God Who controls the future ...
3. That Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God, because He is the One Who is the focus of fulfilled prophecy!

II. See in this fulfilled prophecy, the power of God displayed in seeming weakness –

<sup>18</sup> They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:18 (NKJV)

“For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

1. Note the word “See” in this particular point! It is something, I as your preacher today, as you pastor, am hoping you will do, even now! See, you may think yourself just sitting, maybe actively listening, that is good, but let us all see God’s strength in Christ’s weakness on the cross- this is an application, yet not one we can do on our own ...

2. **Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? Isaiah 53:1**

*Christ is called in Isaiah 53:1 “the Arm of the LORD” ... Yet as Isaiah calls Him the arm of the LORD ...*

Isaiah questions who at all is seeing these things, this truth ...

*The only way to see, what the Jews see as a stumbling block, and the Greeks see as foolishness, rightly, is by having it revealed to you!*

*Paul is speaking about the cross – For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2 When he says – ... “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.” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)*

*Nothing, I can think of communicates more weakness and vulnerability than a man, nailed naked on a cross, helpless, looking down on men, strong men, soldiers, casting lots for His clothing ...*

*Yet, we should see God’s strength in how He saves us ... Imagine a big strong daddy, attacked in play by his little boy ... or maybe better an insane little wife, overcome by the love and strength of her husband. This leads to the third point –*

III. *See this “weakness” showing us our sinfulness and God’s loving efforts to bring us back, to Himself, to Righteousness, to Life –*

**For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8**

1. *Our great weakness is we cannot stop SINNING –*

<sup>23</sup>**Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)**

*This is evident in our treatment of Christ:*

A. *He is the image of the invisible God -*  
**He is the image of the invisible God, ... Colossians 1:15**

B. *He came to our world in the humblest, most non-threatening way –*

**For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11-12**

C. *He (Jesus) went about doing good, helping people ...*  
**“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10:38**

*Yet, we nailed Him to the cross, we let Him suffer there, ...*  
**Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots. Luke 23:34**

2. *God’s great strength is shown in the loving way He brings us back –*

**The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:3**

A. *Prophecy shows God planned it, not our sin, that is our own, but Jesus endurance of it ...*

B. *From the very beginning He was calling us back gently –*  
**Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” Genesis 3:9**

C. *He called and clothed our first parents –*

<sup>21</sup>**Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. Genesis 3:21 (NKJV)**

D. *He continues to reason with us, and clothe His own –*

<sup>18</sup>**“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18**

**Then a white robe was given to each of them; ... Revelation 6:11**

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