

Series: Simply Jesus

Title: The Cross & the Resurrection

Text: (John 19:23-John 20:1-31

GAMBLERS AT THE CROSS - (Jn 19:23-24)

The clothes of an executed man were a spoil of his executioners.

Every Jew wore five articles of apparel—
Shoes, Turban, Girdle, Tunic, and his Outer Robe.

There were four soldiers, and there were five articles.

Each had his pick and the Outer Robe was left.

It was seamless, woven all in one piece.

To have cut it into 4 pieces would have been to render it useless, and so they dived again to see who would possess it. There are many things in this vivid picture.

"They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots" (Ps 22:18).

This does not mean that the soldiers were knowingly fulfilling prophecy, but that their action, carried out as a matter of course, was overruled to this end.

Jesus says 7 things from the cross

1st He focusses on the Needs of Others

1. *Father forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).
2. *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise* (Luke 23:43).
3. *Woman, behold your son: behold your mother* (John 19:26-27).

2nd He focusses on His Condition

1. *Eli Eli lama sabachthani?* ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34).
2. *I thirst* (John 19:28).
3. *It is finished* (John 19:30).
4. *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit* (Luke 23:46).

Not all 7 sayings can be found in any 1 of the Gospels

The ordering is a harmonization of the texts from each of the 4 gospels.

In Luke's Gospel, 1st, 2nd, 7th sayings occur.

In John's Gospel, 3rd, 5th, 6th sayings occur.

It's An Interesting view into Christ's Humanity, & His Mindset during the Crucifixion.

He was Sensitive to the Needs of Others

1. *Father forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34).

He could have come down from the cross.

He could have commanded 12 legions of angels.
(Matt 26:53) *Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?*

Instead He chose to stay on the cross, for Me & You.
He asked the Father to NOT pour out judgment upon the people. (Praise The Lord for His Mercy!)
(John 10:11-16) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

God @ His best, took man at his worst & forgave him

He forgave those who Caused It.

He helped the one who wanted it: Lk 23:39-45

2. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).

Two men were in reach: *Illus: The Three Crosses*
Christ was still able to save: Within moments of death Christ still had the power over death and sin.

Illus: 6 feet from heaven!

One died in his sin, the other reached out for heaven.

Some of you could be just a few feet from heaven:

This is as close to heaven as a lost man ever gets.

This is as close to hell as a saved man ever gets.

Will you mock God's final call to you?

Will recognize your need, and call upon Him?

He focused on the spiritual needs of others,

A SON'S LOVE - (Jn 19:25-27)

3. Woman, behold your son: behold your mother
(John 19:26-27).

In the end Jesus was not absolutely alone.

At His Cross there were 4 women who loved Him. It was a dangerous thing to be an associate of a man whom the Roman government judged for sedition, but no one paid attention to weeping women in that culture.

There was Mary, Jesus' mother.

Mary the wife of Clopas, we know nothing about. According to the 2nd-Century Palestinian writer Hegesippus,

Clopas was the brother of Joseph the carpenter, Jesus's earthly uncle.

(She was Mary's Sister in Law by marriage)

This Mary was the mother of James the younger, Simeon, & of Joses (Joseph).

This Simeon became the leader of the Church at Jerusalem after the stoning of Jesus' half brother James the Just

There was Jesus' mother's sister.

(Mk 15:40; Mt 27:56) makes it quite clear that she was Salome, the mother of James & John.

There was Mary from Magdala.

Jesus cast out 7 devils out of her. (Mk 16:9; Lk 8:2). She could never forget what Jesus had done for her. His love rescued her, & her love would never fade.

(Vs 26)

Jesus' brother are not here, probably not even in town. They did not yet believe on Jesus, so Jesus could not entrust the care of his mother to them.

(Vs 27) He entrusts her care to the Apostle John.

We see a striking change in attitude by our Lord's brothers who did not believe in Him 6 months before His death (Jn 7:5) but are found (along with his mother), in the company of the Apostles immediately after His ascension (Acts 1:14), would be inexplicable apart from Paul's information that in resurrection the Lord 'appeared to James' (1 Cor 15:7).

Then Jesus Focusses on His Condition:

4. *Eli Eli lama sabachthani?* ("My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"), Matt 27:46 & Mark 15:34). Quoting (Ps 22:1)

We come face to face w/the human suffering of Jesus.

TRIUMPHANT ENDING - (Jn 19:28-30)

We see the Agony of Jesus's as the Son of Man.

5. *I thirst* (John 19:28).

John traces back to a prophecy in the Old Testament

(Ps 69:21) "*They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*"

(Ps 22:15) *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*

The 'vinegar' in the jar was probably sour wine, placed for the soldiers to drink as they guarded the three crosses.

In soldiers' Latin it was called 'posca'; John uses the same word for 'vinegar' οξος (oxos) as is used in the LXX of (Ps 69:21) quoted above.

It is not to be confused with 'the wine mingled with myrrh' which, according to (Mk 15:23) Jesus refused when it was offered to Him on His arrival at the place of execution.

That was a sedative provided by charitable people in Jerusalem to dull the senses of the victims and to relieve something of their agony; Jesus resolved to die with an unclouded mind.

6. *It is finished* (John 19:30). *Tetelesti~Paid In Full*
We see the Triumph of Jesus' a the God the Son.

7. *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit*

(Luke 23:46).

We see the Submission of Jesus as the Son of God.

WATER AND THE BLOOD - (Jn 19:31-37)

(Vs 31a)

1 way the Jews were more merciful than the Romans. When the Romans Crucified, the victim was simply left to die on the cross.

He might hang for days in the heat of the midday sun & the cold of the night, tortured by thirst & tortured also by the gnats and the flies crawling in the welts on His torn back.

Often men died raving mad on their crosses. Romans didn't bury the bodies of crucified criminals. That threw them in a ravine, & let the vultures, crows, & the dogs feed upon them.

The Jewish law was different. (Deut 21:22-23)
"And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance."

(Vs 32)

A grim method was used to dispatch criminals who lingered on.

Their limbs were smashed with a mallet.

That was done to the thieves who were crucified next to Jesus.

Jesus was spared that, for He was already dead.

(Ps 34:20) *He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.*

John sees that sparing of Jesus as a symbol of another Old Testament passage.

(1 Cor 5:7) *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*

It was said of the Passover lamb that not a bone of it should be broken (Ex 12:46)(Num 9:12).

John is seeing Jesus as the Passover Lamb who delivers his people from death.

(Vs 33) When the soldiers saw that Jesus was already dead they did not break his limbs with the mallet; but one of them--it must have been to make doubly sure that Jesus was dead --thrust a spear into his side.

(Vs 34) ***And there flowed out water and blood.***

(Vs 35-37) And he goes out of his way to say that this is an eye-witness account of what actually happened, and that he personally guarantees that it is true.

John sees in it as a fulfillment of prophecy:
(Zech 12:10): "*They look on him whom they have pierced.*"

LAST GIFTS TO JESUS - (Jn 19:38-42)

There is both tragedy and glory here.
Nicodemus & Joseph were members of the Sanhedrin, but they were *secret disciples* of Jesus.

Either they had absented themselves from the meeting of the Sanhedrin that examined Him and formulated the charge against Him, or they had sat silent through it all.

What a difference it would have made to Jesus, if, among these condemning, hectoring voices, one voice had been raised in His support.

What a difference it would have made to see loyalty on one face amidst that sea of bleak, envenomed faces. *But Nicodemus and Joseph were afraid.*

We so often leave our tributes until people are dead.
How much greater would loyalty in life have been than a new tomb and a shroud fit for a king.

One flower in life is worth all the wreaths in the world at the Funeral.

One word of love, praise, & thanks in life is worth all the Eulogies & Poems in the world when life is gone.

(Vs 38) As a member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph would have readier access to the governor than Jesus' humbler friends and followers could venture to seek.

Roman law normally handed over the bodies of executed criminals to their next of kin, but not if they had been executed for sedition.

Why then did Pilate hand over the body of Jesus to Joseph, who was not related to him, when Jesus had in fact been executed for sedition?

Perhaps because Pilate was convinced that Jesus was not really guilty of the crime alleged against Him.

(Vs 39-40) Nicodemus - 100lbs is fit for a king.

(Vs 41-42)

Time was short, b/c sundown would bring on the Sabbath, when work would have to stop, so b/c of the proximity of the garden tomb the body was placed in it.

A rock hewn tomb is to be understood as is made

explicit in the Synoptic narrative.

According to (Lev 23:29) the “preparation of the Passover” did not mean the day before the seventh-day sabbath but rather a special day of the week.

1st & 8th day were sabbaths/ or Holy Convocations.
Wednesday = Preparation-Passover killed & roasted
Wednesday night Passover feast.