**Good Friday - The Crucifixion of Jesus**

Raphael Giglio 3-29-21

Tonight we focus entirely on The Crucifixion. We look at Jesus life in his final moments leading up to the cross, less than a week after he was anointed in Bethany and rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

For 3 ½ years he has been teaching, healing, doing miracles, prophesying and fulfilling prophesies. All along the way, He alluded to what the end of the journey would be like and eventually told them outright three times that *“ Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”* and now,… it was happening.

The entire journey of his life lead to this moment where He is crucified, which is in fact, along with the Resurrection, the most significant moment in human history.

Jesus death on the cross is central to everything we believe.

Jesus blood on the cross is the only way our sins could be forgiven. There was no other way *(Jesus even asked if there was in Gethsemane).*

Through his death he broke the *power of the Devil* over death.

**Heb 2:14** “For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who *had*the power of death”.

*We can’t imagine what it was like to live in a time when the Devil has so much power.*

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, he recognized that he was innocent, and offered to release Jesus, because it was customary to release a prisoner on the Sabbath, but the crowds chose another prisoner, Barabbas instead and shouted for Jesus to be crucified!

**MARK 15:9-47**

**9**“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, **10**knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. **11**But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

**12**“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

**13**“Crucify him!” they shouted.

**14**“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

**15**Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

*(Roman flogging with whips was so brutal, that Sometimes the flogging alone would kill the victims. The Jewish law was 39 lashes, it may have been similar for Romans)*

**16**The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. **17**They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. **18**And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” **19**Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

**20**And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him.

Fulfilling the scripture:

***Isa. 50:6*** *“I offered my back to those who beat me,
    my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.*

Then they led him out to crucify him.

**MARK 15:21**A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry **the cross.**

*THE CROSS: Possibly just the Horizontal Piece, which by itself is an enormous amount of weight.*

*Did Jesus stumble carrying the cross? The Bible does not mention it, but it is certainly possible.*

*Crucifixion was a COMMON manner by which the Roman government carried out humiliating and excruciating public execution. (Not just Jesus, possibly hundreds of thousands died this way, men and women).*

*Even though it is described in our songs as wondrous, wonderful and something to be cherished, it was feared and abhorred by the Jews. Even today it is despised and known only as an “execution Stake” by Jewish People.*

**Mark 15:22**They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).

*Likely a public place outside the city. Currently believed to be the Church of the Holy Sepulcher OR a polluted hill near a Bus Station property a few blocks North of the Damascus Gate.*

 **Mark 15:23**Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

**24And they crucified him. **

**t**

Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

**25**It was nine in the morning when they crucified him.

**26**The written notice of the charge against him read: “the king of the jews.”

*(This is the label placed on the cross, indicating the crime. Pilate intentionally wrote “King of the Jews”, it upset the Jews and they wanted it changed. He responded “what I have written, I have written” (John 19:22)*

*it was written in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and likely Aramaic)*

**27**They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left.  ***(28****So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”)*

**29**Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days,

**31**In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! **32**Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

*Most scholars believe in a closer study of all four gospels, that there were probably 4 others crucified with Jesus. One of those crucified with him actually believed on Him and was granted eternal life.*

***Luke 23:42-43*** *“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”****43****And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

**The Death of Jesus**

**Mark 15:33**At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34**And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”*

*(1st verse of Psalm 22:1Aramaic for “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)*

*This is said to be the moment that “He who knew no sin, became sin”, and “God laid on Him the iniquity of us all”*

**Jesus spoke these words, not necessarily to God, but in Aramaic, the common language for those gathered, as a quotation of Psalm 22, words of David.**

**Throughout Psalm 22 we see direct correlations to what was happening on the cross.**

   **Mark 15:35**When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

**36**Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

*Remember, the Jews are always waiting for Elijah because he is prophesied to come before the Day of the Lord “"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.” (Mal 4:5 – the last chapter of the Old Testament)*

**37**With a *loud cry*, Jesus breathed his last.

*That cry may have been,*

* *“Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”*
* *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”*
* *“It is finished.”*

***Jesus died***

And then…

**Mark 15:38**The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

*The veil of the temple was ripped in half from top to bottom (symbolizing the end of separation of God and man, and the need for sacrifices in the temple)*

*This was very significant because the need for temple sacrifices had now been fulfilled, and the presence of God was not confined only to the temple, but accessible to everyone, everywhere.*

*The temple was the center of the universe for those who worshipped the One True God. The temple consisted of the outer courts, the Holy Place and the “Holy of Holies”.*

*It was the place that God said He would appear so it separated from the rest of the temple by a very high, thick woven curtain, no one could go past it ever (other than the High Priest, once a year to offer the blood of the sacrifice).*

*When it was mysteriously torn in two from top to bottom, it was the ultimate declaration that Jesus’ blood satisfied the “Righteous requirement of the Law”. Whatever Jesus did in His suffering and dying on the cross, he did it correctly and paid the ultimate price for our sins.*

*Matthew’s gospel adds even* ***more*** *exciting details;*

**Matt 27:51-52** *“*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split **52**and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.”

**Mark 15:39**And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

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*[ I remember when I was a child, my parents had a crucifix on the wall. It was very detailed, with a porcelain Jesus nailed to the wooden cross with blood on his hand feet and head. When I was very young it didn’t faze me because I didn’t understand pain, blood and death.*

*As I got older, I realize the horror of what was being depicted and I would not look at it. I would turn away as I went by. Later, I became intrigued with it and would look upon it with great sorrow and bewilderment, often asking myself the question “Why did Jesus, God’s son have to die?” ]*

It’s a question we have to ask today.

Why did Jesus have to die?

God is King of all of the Universe, couldn’t He have done something so His Son would not have to suffer, be tortured and die a horrific death?

There are many theological answers to the question of; “*Why did Jesus have to die?”*

You often hear the term “*Christ’s finished work on the cross”.* Which is basically the doctrine of Salvation through the blood of Jesus.

In the C&MA we talk about these things associated with the “finished work”;

* **Redemption:** Means “to buy back” through the payment of a price. It was commonly used to describe the transaction to secure the freedom of one who had fallen into slavery through war or through debt. Jesus paid the price for our salvation on the cross.
* **Propitiation** (“atonement”) The law required a blood sacrifice for our sins. During Yom Kippur, it would be the blood of a goat that would be the propitiation, Jesus’ blood atoned (satisfied) this requirement *once-and-for-all!*

Romans 8:3-4 “God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4**in order that the *righteous requirement of the law* might be fully met in us”

* **Justification**: This is a legal word, a verb that comes from the noun “made righteous.” The result of the cross is that we are justified “made righteous” by Jesus’ death. This is the basis of our doctrine of “Justification by faith” (salvation simply by believing).

**Why Did Jesus have to die?**

* For Redemption
* For Propitiation
* For Justification

These were only made possible by Jesus’ death on the cross.

But, There’s *one more*.

It’s in some ways more *personal* and less *religious-sounding*,

RECONCILIATION

God is our father, and more than anything, desires to be in a love relationship with us, His children.

That’s how it was before sin entered the world and separated us from Him.

He longs to be *reconciled* with those whom he created to be in relationship with Him.

Jesus’s death on the cross accomplished that!

**2 Cor. 5:15, 17-21**

**“15**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

…

 **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+5&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28895a)] The old has gone, the new is here!

**18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.”

*Because of Jesus’ death on the cross, we are blessed with a reconciled relationship with God the father, no longer separated by sin, but made completely new in Him .*

*This is the good news of the cross!*

*Which is why it is called “Good Friday”*

*This is not just for us to hold for ourselves, but for us to share with a world that desperately needs God and to whom God passionately wants to be reconciled with.*

**2 Cor. 5:19**… “And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20**We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21**God made *him who had no sin* to *be sin* for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

This is the *power*, *significance* and the *beauty* of the cross.

“*By dying, Jesus broke the power of the devil who hadthe power of death.”*(Heb. 2:14),

…and has given us eternal life,

*completely redeemed*,

*completely atoned*,

*completely justified* in Him,

and *completely reconciled* to God the Father.

**ROMANS 5:8** **“**God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let’s keep the cross central in everything we do.

Not just on Good Friday but every Day.

Not just for forgiveness of sins,

Not just for for:

* Redemption
* For Propitiation
* For Justification

but for a **reconciled relationship** with our Heavenly Father,

who loves us so very much!