

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 23, 2020:**

**"Transformed by the Son of God:
Jesus Crucified, Dead & Buried
(John 19:16 – 42) (Part 22)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom shows us through the Gospel of John the crucifixion, death and burial that Jesus, the Son of God went through for us.]

Introduction:

- Last week Pastor Craig told us that he would be providing some thoughts this week about alternative considerations to the traditional views about the crucifixion of Jesus.
- So, what he's going to share with us are the thought from Brad Jersak, author of "A More Christlike God."
- These powerful words about God's forgiveness came from Brad's blog.

- We need to realize that the incarnation of the Son of God didn't just come about because humanity had sinned.
- We can take comfort that the incarnation was planned since the very beginning.

God's Forgiveness and the Cross (via Brad Jersak):

- The cross did not enable God to forgive us.
- The cross was God's act of forgiveness.
- When we took his son and crucified him, instead of pouring his wrath on us he forgave us and in that sense the cross doesn't enable God to forgiveness, it is the occasion of forgiveness.

- It is the enactment of the freedom of God that even when you do the vilest of sins imaginable, the murder of my own son I am able to release you and let it go.
- Cost is different than price. The cost of God's forgiveness to himself was that he had to absorb that sin.

- There was no payback, paydown, or payoff for God.
- So he absorbs the cost in his own love and that's much different than someone saying you can't forgive until you pay. To say so, is paganizing the gospel.
- NT Wright said the Bible doesn't say, "For God so hated the world that he killed his only Son. He gave his Son as a free gift."

- You can't have the free gift of grace and forgiveness on the one hand and still demand a payment of sacrificial murder on the other.
- It's the context of that murder that Christ offers himself.

- The author of Hebrews 9:22 (“Under the law, without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness”) deliberately uses a different Greek word than sacrifice, it’s really an offering, he offers himself in love.
 - The three key words are “Under the law” – Since God isn’t under the law, He doesn’t have to have blood in order to forgive.
 - God doesn’t require a sacrifice as Abraham thought when he was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac.
 - When Abraham was ready to bring down the knife to sacrifice his son, God said, Stop!”
 - God basically said, “If you have to have a sacrifice, I will offer one.” And God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice.
 - Child sacrifice was a pagan concept that Abraham brought with him from Ur in Chaldees.
 - Now atonement theories tend to make us believe that Christ on the cross was another form of child sacrifice is so far from the truth.
- In offering himself in love even when we rejected him God freely forgives us.
- The cross totalizes and universalizes that forgiveness for all people, for all sins, for all time. God was free to do that.
- Atonement theories (penal substitution) that propose the Father accepted his Son as penalty in order for justice is simply wrong.
 - These words reflect Brad’s thinking who identified with incarnational Trinitarian theology.

In Preview of today’s message (John 19:26 -42) – Pastor Craig’s rhyming verses:

*Jesus crucified upon a Cross,
Between two others, many mourned the Loss.
Pilate hung a sign, King of the Jews,
His clothes divided, prophetic Clues.*

*Jesus concerned for Mary, a devoted Son,
To be taken in by the beloved One.
Receiving a drink, “It is finished!” Jesus Said,
He gave up the spirit and bowed his Head.*

*A special Sabbath to be next Day,
No bodies to be left on display.
No broken bones, but a spear-pierced Side,
Scripture fulfilled we cannot Hide.*

*Nicodemus and Joseph took his body Away,
Wrapped in spices & linen custom would Say.
Placed in a tomb, no body had been Laid,
Pilate’s death penalty had now been Paid.*

Overview of today’s message about the death of Jesus:

1. Jesus: Crucified (Verses 16-27)

2. Jesus: Dead (Verses 28-30)
3. Jesus: Buried (Verses 31-42)

1. Jesus: Crucified (John 19:16-27):

John 19:16 (NIV), So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. 17) Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha) [In Latin, it is Calvary.] 18) There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

19) Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. 20) Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. 21) The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

- This event took place during the Jewish Passover, a major celebration.
- Many Jewish visitors would be coming along this way into Jerusalem in order to keep the Passover and witness Jesus’ crucifixion.

22) Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” 23) When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

24) “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did.

- Now, the Roman soldiers weren’t doing this to fulfill prophecy because they didn’t know anything what the Old Testament prophecies were about.
- Instead, they were moved by the Spirit of God to do this.

25) Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26) When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” 27) and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- In Jesus’ last moments, He still looked out for and honored His mother even though He was experiencing intense pain.
- He was concerned that she would be taken care of after His death.
- So, Jesus entrusted John, the beloved disciple, to take care of her.
- Now, if we’ve gotten sidewise with either our mom or dad and they are still living, we need to correct that situation and not let that rift continue.
- We need to follow Jesus’ example, who loved His mother very much.

2. Jesus: Dead (Verses 28-30):

28) Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29) A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30) When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- Some of the commentaries tell us that the wine and vinegar was provided for those being crucified to kind of deaden the pain, to act as some sort of antiesthetic.
- But, Jesus didn't drink this mixture to deaden His pain, but rather as a way to fulfill scripture.
- And once this was done, Jesus knew that God's plan from the beginning was now finished.
- Then, Jesus gave up the spirit from a human point of view.

3. Jesus: Buried (Verses 31-42):

31) Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. 32) The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.

33) But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34) Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35) The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

- It's interesting that early Christian manuscripts tell us that Peter died on a cross upside down and Paul was beheaded.
- But, in this case, Jesus was not to have any broken bones and was not to be beheaded.
- In Athanasius' book, "From the Incarnation", which was written back in the third century, there are a couple of interesting statements.
- Athanasius said that Jesus' crucifixion was established for proof of the church as the spiritual body of Christ.
- He also wrote that on the cross Jesus' arms and hands were outstretched on the crossbar.
- Athanasius said that this was a metaphor or a sign of Jesus welcoming the Gentile nations into his spiritual body.
- In John 12:32, Jesus said that when He was lifted up, He would take all of humanity unto Himself.
- And so through Jesus' incarnation, we know that all of humanity is included in God's plan of salvation.
- And so, during these past 2000 years, the Holy Spirit has opened the eyes of humanity to know who they are in God's eyes and bring them to a point of belief.
- In one of his letters, Athanasius wrote various reasons why Jesus had to die in the way He did and that it was His obvious choice, because Jesus was in full control.

36) These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” 37) and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

38) Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders.

- Now, church history tells us that Joseph of Arimathea was actually a member of the Sanhedrin.
- He was also a wealthy individual who owned property and was held in high respect in the community.
- Now, with his actions here, it became obvious that he was a disciple of Jesus.

38b) With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. 39) He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

40) Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41) At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42) Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

- So, this concludes today’s message.
- The following verses in this chapter, we covered at the time of Easter.
- So, when Pastor Craig gives his next sermon, in 2 weeks, he will skip over them and finish up the gospel of John.

In Summary of John 19:16 – 42 (Let’s say this together):

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Between two others, many mourned the Loss.
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(Closing prayer)