

## Matthew ch 27-28

We left off last time with Jesus standing before the high priest, being the recipient of completely bogus charges being brought against Him as they were illegally seeking the death penalty to be laid upon Him. The trial was taking place at night which was also against their law and when they had laid upon Him the charge of blasphemy, they condemned Him to death, blindfolded Him, beat Him with unparalleled brutality and spat in His face in total disdain as they were mocking Him. Now Peter was standing afar off and he was watching this venomous attack on his Lord and no doubt as fear gripped his heart, only being able to imagine what would take place to him if they found out he was somehow linked to Jesus. When he was approached by a servant girl in regards to his relationship with Jesus he absolutely denied that he even knew Him.

Then he did it again with a greater intensity as another girl approached him about the same thing, and then finally when asked by another group of people a 3<sup>rd</sup> time he began to curse and swear that he never even knew the man. Even calling down curses upon himself (may God strike me dead if I ever knew this man) and saying things of that nature. and Then Luke's gospel tells us that at that moment, when the rooster crowed Jesus looked up and locked eyes with Peter. and Peter's heart melted as he remembered the words of Jesus, telling him that he would deny Him after Peter so vehemently rejected that saying that he would even die with Him and now he realizes his inability to stand by Jesus even as Jesus said. and So in the very area that Peter was so assured of himself, is the very area that he fell so hard and how true that is for us, that's why the bible says, "*have no confidence in the flesh.*" And "*let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" and So Peter went out and wept bitterly, now we have a lot of ground to cover this morning so we'll do quite a bit more reading and a little bit less exposition, but it's always good just to receive the pure washing of the water by the word.

Vs1-2

The question that comes up at this point is why include this Roman governor Pontius Pilate? I Mean, what part does he even have in this whole deal, you say well, it's because they were seeking the death penalty and at this time Roman rule had taken away the rights of capital punishment from the Jews. and You would be right in saying that, but I suggest to you that it's not quite that simple and that it in fact runs a little bit deeper than that. Now on the surface that's the facts, but when you begin to dig a little deeper you start seeing a little more than that.

#1 You recall when the Scribes and Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus who was caught in the very act of adultery and they through her down before Jesus and says the law says we should stone her, but what do You say? They were ready to carry out capital punishment right then and there, they were going to kill her. What do we find in the book of Acts ch 7 as the testimony of a man by the name of Stephen gave a brilliant exposition of the Scriptures. Beginning with Abraham on down, clear up to the point of Jesus Christ and how the were blind, and how they murdered the Just One in regards to Jesus Christ and These men whom he was standing before, the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of Israel, it says were cut to the heart and they began to gnash their teeth and it tells us that they cast him outside the city and they stoned him to death. Capital punishment by the hand to the Jews even though they were under Roman rule, they weren't intimidated to take care of business as they saw fit.

So why then the involvement with the Roman officials, I suggest to you that it was in order to fulfill Gods divine plan and they being completely unaware were nothing more than puppets in the divine plan of the redemption of man. God is in complete control, you see the Jewish form of capital punishment was that of stoning, the Romans however used the method of crucifixion. and Everything about the O.T as it regards the plan of redemption points to the cross and was a foreshadowing of the cross, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover on, Psalm 22 describing in detail the effects of crucifixion hundreds of years before it's even implemented. and Jesus told them in ch 20 that when they went up to Jerusalem, that He would be betrayed, that they chief priests and scribes would condemn Him to death and that He would be delivered to the gentiles to be mocked scourged and crucified. and So it's all coming down exactly as it had been prophesied, 2ndly since He was given over into the hands of the gentiles (they being the Romans). We see that not only the Jews had their hand in His death but the gentile did as well which is significant because He was delivered up and crucified to make atonement for the Jew and gentile alike. He was sent to shed His blood for the sins of the world. and So we take note of the significance of both the Jew and the gentile taking part in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, they both "laid hands" (if your willing) on the head of the Lamb who would be slain for their sin and ours.

Vs3-5

Now I want to pause here for just a few minutes and then we'll get on with that reading part that I was talking about. Because I think it's worth noting (though many of you may already be well aware) of the fact that there are some very interesting parallels and obviously some sharp contrasts between Judas and Peter that are worth stopping to examine at this point. and It's interesting to me that every time we see the names of the apostles listed that Peter comes 1<sup>st</sup> and Judas is always mentioned last. and Yet there were a few very interesting parallels in their lives #1 they were both referred to as the devil or Satan by Jesus.

In Matt ch 16 Jesus began to speak to His disciples about the fact that He was going to suffer in Jerusalem and be put to death at the hands of the elders and chief priests and all. and If you remember right Peter took the Lord aside and was like far be it from you Lord, this isn't going to happen to you.

What did Jesus say to Him? *“Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”* Jesus called Him Satan, at another time Jesus was speaking to His disciples and He said to them, *“Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” He spoke of Judas Iscariot.”* Both of them was warned by Jesus that they would deny Him or betray Him, Jesus told Peter that before this night is over you'll have denied Me 3 times. and When the disciples were at the Last Supper and Jesus told them of a betrayer in their midst they were all is it I Lord? While Judas just sort of sat there silently and finally Jesus said it's the one who dips his bread with Me and at the same time Judas was partaking with the Lord and he said is it I Lord? and Jesus said, you said it. and To both of them Jesus extended Himself at that crucial moment of denial, as we were speaking of earlier right as Peter denied Jesus for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and Jesus looked at Peter, it wasn't a look of chastisement or rebuke. It was a look of love and concern a look of I understand what your going through and I still love you, and that's why Peter's heart broke before God as he went out and wept bitterly.

When Judas was coming to the garden to betray Jesus when he got there we read that Jesus said to Judas, *“friend, why have you come?”* He called him friend, making Himself available to Judas, giving him opportunity to fall on his knees and receive forgiveness even though the damage had been done and he could've been made right, right then and there. Peter went on to be a leading forerunner in the church one of the leading apostles, used mightily by God, Judas went on to become the most notorious, disreputable names of all time having cheapened everything he put his hand to. What was it that separated the two? One word, repentance, I know your KJV says that he repented himself but even in that it reveals something to you, it doesn't say that he repented before God, it says he repented himself.

There are 2 different Greek words that translate into the English as the word “repent” one meaning feeling sorry or being regretful. The other meaning turning around or changing direction, you see Judas regretted, Peter repented, Judas was sorry over the mess that he made and realized that he was wrong but never had a change of heart, he was just sorry that he'd loused things up. Paul writes to us in 2 Cor 7:10 and said that, *“godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; (that's Peter) but the sorrow of the world produces death.”*

That's Judas, you see being sorry in and of itself does not equate repentance, if someone tells me they're sorry for something that doesn't mean a whole lot to me. Other than the fact that it shows me that they have a conscience, practically every person in the state penitentiary will tell you that they're sorry for what they've done, but very few of them have actually repented and will lead different lifestyles once they're out. You see the difference, Judas regretted, Peter repented, and the results of those 2 different approaches to the mistakes that they made in their lives couldn't have been more diametrically opposed to one another. We need to be people of repentance, regret is good if it leads you to repentance, but other than that it does nothing for you.

I find it interesting as well that Judas went out and hanged himself on a tree, because he knew that the death sentence that Jesus received was crucifixion, death by hanging on a tree. So that He might redeem us who were under the law, you say what do you mean Jeff? The law expressly says in Deut ch 21 that "*he who is hanged on a tree is accursed of God.*" and Paul the apostle picks up on this in Gal 3 when he says, "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").*" But the part that intrigues me about Judas hanging himself on a tree is that the law also says in Deut 19: that, "*if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother.*" What was Jesus' sentence death by hanging on a tree, so what did Judas do to himself having bore false witness against Him, hung himself on a tree.

Vs6

Really testifying against themselves because if they thought that they had done nothing wrong then that wouldn't have been considered blood money.

Vs7-10

Again if they had known the scriptures they would have seen themselves playing the part of the prophets words hundreds of years in advance, God showing Himself still in complete control. Now if you look in Jeremiah, you won't find this vs, you will however find it in Zechariah ch 11, now Jeremiah does speak of the potter and does speak of buying a field and all but this quote is out of Zech. It's possible that Jeremiah said it and Zechariah recorded it, it's possible that he was in reference to the scroll of Jeremiah, which contained Zechariah as well, or it could've just been a scribal error somewhere down the line. But I just point that out to you so when skeptics point it out to you, you'll already be aware of it, and if something this minor is all it takes to shipwreck your faith, then you've got bigger problems than this to be worried about.

## Vs11

Now it's necessary that I interject here the fact that the Jews knew that to the Roman Gov. their charge of blasphemy would be shrugged off because the Romans didn't believe in their religious doctrines anyway. So it was necessary that they present to Pilate a different offense that might be considered a front to Rome. and So according to Luke's gospel they accused Him before Pilate of being an insurrectionist. We're told there that they told Pilate, "*we found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.*" In other words He's a threat to Caesar's throne, now that was an offense worth investigating to them. That's why we read here of Pilate interrogating Jesus on the premise of His claims of being a king.

## Vs12-17

Now some of your bibles may say Jesus Barabbas which "Barabbas" interestingly enough means son of a father, not that I'm saying that there's some significant thing to be found there. Jesus was a common name at that time but I found it interesting anyway, and he was an insurrectionist and another gospel tells us that he was a murderer and the people knew it. Now Pilate was seeking to free Jesus because we read in the other accounts that Pilate found no fault in Him and so he thought if I set Him beside a proven murderer than surely the people will opt for Jesus to be released. and So to be sure that they knew who he was in reference to He said do you want me to release Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

## Vs18-

Envy, a deadly sin and Galatians tells us that it's a work of the flesh, so when you find yourself feeling envious of someone, be careful, that's the motive that underscored the death of your Lord. Jesus had a huge following, and the religious leaders were envious and worried that they would lose their platform with the people and the fruits of their envy brought death.

## Vs19-

There's been conjecture about this but right now I don't feel the need to comment on it because that's all it is, conjecture. Whether she had been converted to Christ or was just a very superstitious woman, we really don't know.

## Vs20-26

There's no way that Pilate could be released of this responsibility, he would've like to have been, but he alone made the decision to release Him or crucify Him, and he buckled under the pressure of the mob. Now we've spoke before on the details of the scourging and so this morning I'm not going to, and I sometimes get teased for being so graphic in my descriptions.

But I feel that it's necessary that we understand the reality of what it was the Jesus endured for us, It's not my goal to gross anyone out. It's my goal to wake us up to the reality of what it meant for Him to take our place so that we might be all the more compelled to give our lives over to Him. Lord you went through so much for us, the least I can do is lay down my life for you and so take it and use it as you please.

If we were only a people of absolute surrender to God, then surely this city would never be the same, 12 guys changed the face of the entire know world, surely 80-100 can take on Joplin Mo. But what I want to draw out of the text right now is the fact that the closer you get to the cross, the more intense the trials are going to become. It was true for Jesus, in a physical sense, and it'll be true for you in the spiritual sense. He was blindfolded and beaten, spat upon and then scourged, then He was mocked and beaten again in the assembly of 600 Roman soldiers, then a crown of thorns was placed on His head and He was mocked and spat on again. Then they took the reed out of His hand that they had placed there to mock Him and beat that crown of thorns down on His head and then He was crucified and became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. and So if you think that as you progress closer and closer to the cross, your trials won't become more and more intense, I fear that you maybe sadly mistaken and in for a rude awakening. It started even in the garden with the mental stress and turmoil and then just escalated from there.

Vs27

That word "garrison" is in reference to a cohort, which was 600 Roman soldiers.

Vs28-44

Now we know according one of the other gospels that one of the criminals went on to repent and join Jesus in paradise. But look at vs42 (read 1<sup>st</sup> part) how profound is that, mark that in your bible and remember it well because there's profound truth to that statement that they weren't even aware of. He couldn't save Himself, because had He saved Himself then none of the others could've been saved. In fact, if He'd have saved Himself, then none of us could've been saved. But since out of His love and grace He wanted to save others, it was impossible for Him to save Himself. It was one or the other and Jesus chose you above Himself, now in vs 43 we read "He trusted God" what a testimony concerning Jesus Christ "*He saved others, and He trusted in God.*"

Vs45

Which would've been from 12 noon till 3:00 PM; and how significant it is that mankind having rejected the light of the world was subjected to dwell in darkness.

## Vs46

Again that's not too hard to answer it was because of yours and my sin that they Father had to forsake His Son. But more than this I think that Jesus was seeking to give a bit of a clue to His disciples as to what was taking place and how these things were necessary according to the scriptures. Because those who were familiar with the scriptures would've known that this was how the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm begins, and Jesus is here now calling attention to that psalm.

It's almost as if Jesus was saying now go home and look it up and you'll realize what's going on. Their understanding would be opened if they would look into this Psalm. Because there it speaks about this darkness that would come, it speaks about people shooting out the lip and shaking their heads saying, "*He trusted the Lord, let Him rescue Him.*" There they would read of His tongue cleaving to His jaws do to dehydration which is why Jesus cried "I thirst." It speaks of them piercing His hands and His feet and them dividing His garments and casting lots for His clothes. and So by crying out this statement He was pointing them to the scriptures so that they might gain the proper perspective of what was going on. So there is so much to be gleaned here, a word to His disciples and yet at the same time drinking that cup that He had prayed to be taken from Him if there was any other way for us to be saved.

## Vs47-56

So when Jesus yielded up His Spirit the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, not from the bottom to the top, it was as if God Himself tore that thing in 1/2 there by declaring the fact that there is no more need for a man to mediate on the behalf of man. Because now Jesus, had through His broken body and His shed blood created access into the holy of holies, the very presence of God for whosoever might come. and In and through this it was affirmed that Jesus is the way the truth and the life and that no one was allowed access to the Father but by Him. and This wasn't no mamby pamby paper thin veil here it's estimated to be a woven veil really anywhere from 5-6 even on up to 18 inches thick.

We don't have time this morning but Hebrews ch 10 speaks of how the veil was torn, tying it together with the body of Jesus Christ and How even as this veil was torn creating access into the presence of God so to the body of Jesus Christ was torn so that we might gain access to the Father, Him being our great high priest.

## Vs57-66

Which really only testified all the more to the reality of the resurrection, because had they done nothing then it may seem plausible that someone may've stolen the body. But by them setting watch over it, it confirms the resurrection all the more.

## Vs1-6

Now this angel didn't roll back the stone so that Jesus could come out, He's already gone, he rolled it back so that they could come in.

## Vs7-9

I'll bet they did, can you imagine the excitement of this morning, oh how I look forward to falling at the feet of Jesus and worshipping Him and gazing upon His face.

## Vs10-20

Notice this wasn't a suggestion, it was a command, Go. Jesus said all power has been given to Me, in heaven and on earth, now you go and teach people about Me make disciples of Myself and as you do, I'll be with you. In other words as you share Jesus Christ all the power in the universe, in heaven and on earth is backing you up. Ps 27:1 says, *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"* In other words with God on your team, you haven't got anything to worry about, what can man do to me? and The ministry of the church is found right there in vs 20, teaching them. and May we be found so doing that which we've been called to do at our Masters return, so that we might here those words we long to hear. *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."*