



# Jesus, the Crucified Lamb

## Lesson 27 John 19:16b-42

### REVIEW

1. In our last lesson, we saw the official decision of the Sanhedrin and the subsequent trials of Jesus before the Roman governor, Pilate.
2. We also studied John's account of these trials and the eight questions asked by Pilate.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. In this lesson, we will study the account of Jesus' death on the cross for the sins of the world.
2. In His crucifixion and burial, we will find numerous Old Testament prophecies fulfilled to perfection, all of which were written hundreds of years before the events of the cross.
3. We will study the actions and words of Jesus on the cross and examine their significance.

### THE CRUCIFIXION (19:16b-37)

#### A. The procession to the cross - 19:16b-17

**19:16b** "And they took Jesus, and led him away. **17** And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:"

1. "They took Jesus, and led him away" - 19:16b

- a. He was led away as a prisoner, sentenced to die
- b. Luke's gospel tells us that "a great company of people, and of women" followed Him, "which also bewailed and lamented him" - Luke 23:27

2. "And he bearing his cross" - 19:17

- a. It was the cross that only Jesus could bear
- b. The synoptic gospels tell us that Simon, a Cyrenian, was compelled to bear the cross of Christ - Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26
  - i. "Tradition says that He fell under the weight of the heavy beam which He bore on shoulders lacerated by the fearful scourge."<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. Simon had two sons, Rufus and Alexander (Mark 15:21). Rufus is mentioned in Paul's salutations in Romans 16:13. Tradition says that "Simon was brought, through this service he was made to render, to personal knowledge of the Savior."<sup>2</sup>

#### B. The place of crucifixion - 19:17

1. Matthew, Mark and John call the place Golgotha

- a. Hebrew word meaning "skull"<sup>3</sup>
- b. "Golgotha, place of a skull-shaped mount, not place of skulls...Golgotha is not the traditional place of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, but a place outside the city, probably what is known as Gordon's Calvary."<sup>4</sup>

2. Luke's gospel calls the place "Calvary", which is the translation of the word "skull" in the Latin Vulgate

<sup>1</sup> J. Dwight Pentecost, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), 478.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Edward Goodrick, John Kohlenberger III, *The Strongest NIV Exhaustive Concordance* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999), 1182, ref. 1201.

<sup>4</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Robertson's Word Pictures of the New Testament*, Vol. 1 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1932), 231.

**C. Crucified as a criminal - 19:18**

**19:18** “Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.”

1. Jesus, the extraordinary Creator of the world, was executed as a common criminal, “*Two other with him*”
2. Jesus’ crucifixion with the malefactors was the fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12

**D. The posted accusation of Christ - 19:19-22**

**19:19** “And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. **20** This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. **21** Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. **22** Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.”

1. Only John’s Gospel tells us that Pilate himself wrote the accusation
2. The word “*title*” is a Latin word for “an inscription, giving the accusation or crime for which a criminal suffered.”<sup>5</sup>
3. The crime for which Jesus had been convicted was being “*The King of the Jews*”
4. The Jews’ disdain for the sign - **19:21**
5. Pilate’s firm stance against the Jews - **19:22**
  - a. The language denotes indignation for the Jews
  - b. This was the crime for which Pilate had allowed Christ to be crucified

**E. The parting of Christ’s garments - 19:23-24**

**19:23** “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. **24** They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.”

1. The garments of the criminal were removed prior to crucifixion and would become the property of the soldiers. “The four pieces would be the head gear, the sandals, the girdle and the tallith (outer garment with fringes).”<sup>6</sup> Each soldier got one part of the “*four parts*”.
2. The coat
  - a. Great value, for it was seamless
  - b. Rather than divide it, they “*cast lots for it*”
  - c. This was the fulfillment of Psalm 22:18

**F. Jesus’ proper care for His mother - 19:25-27**

**19:25** “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! **27** Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

<sup>5</sup> Joseph H. Thayer, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 627, ref. 5102.

<sup>6</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Robertson’s Word Pictures of the New Testament*, Vol. 5 (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1932), 302.

1. Even in His dying moments, Jesus took His responsibility to care for His mother seriously
  - a. Jesus' brothers normally would have had the responsibility to care for their mother
  - b. However, since John was a believer and was with Him at the cross, Jesus entrusted the care of His mother to John. John is *"the disciple standing by, whom [Jesus] loved"*.
  - c. *"Woman, behold thy son!"*
    - i. *"Woman"* is a term of respect - **2:4, 8:10**
    - ii. John would become her son. John never uses Mary's name, rather "the mother of Jesus."
  - d. *"Behold thy mother!"* John took Mary into his personal care.

**G. The perfect death - 19:28-37**

**19:28** "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. **29** Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. **31** The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. **32** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: **34** But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. **35** And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. **36** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. **37** And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."

1. Perfect in Christ's knowledge of all things, *"Jesus [knew] that all things were now accomplished"* - **19:28**
2. Perfect in its fulfillment of Scripture, *"That the scripture might be fulfilled"*
  - a. *"I thirst"* fulfilled Psalm 22:15
  - b. The soldiers offering of vinegar to drink fulfilled Psalm 69:21 - **19:29**
  - c. Christ's legs were not broken as were the other two who were crucified with Him. This fulfilled Psalm 34:20. - **19:33, 36**
  - d. His side was pierced with a spear, fulfilling Zechariah 12:10 - **19:34, 37**
  - e. He was wounded for our transgressions - **Isaiah 53:3-7**
3. Perfect in what it accomplished, *"It is finished"* - **19:30**
4. Perfect in the power behind it
  - a. Jesus *"bowed his head, and gave up the ghost"*
    - i. "Gave up his spirit"<sup>7</sup>
    - ii. Luke says that *"Jesus had cried with a loud voice... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* - **Luke 23:46**

<sup>7</sup> Robertson, *Robertson's Word Pictures of the New Testament*, Vol. 5, 304.

- b. Christ fulfilled His own statement in John 10:17-18
- c. "Christ did not die because life slowly ebbed from His veins. His life was not taken from Him. Christ died because by an act of His will He dismissed His soul from His body. Christ was sovereign over His death."<sup>8</sup>

## THE BURIAL (19:38-42)

### A. The people responsible for burial - 19:38-40

**19:38** "And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. **39** And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. **40** Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury."

#### 1. Joseph of Arimathaea

- a. "A disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews" - 19:38
- b. He was "a rich man" - Matthew 27:57
- c. He asked Pilate for the body of Jesus
  - i. Pilate made certain that Jesus was dead by summoning the centurion in charge of the crucifixion - Mark 15:44-45
  - ii. Jesus' death was an irrefutable fact in first-century Jerusalem. One theory aimed at discrediting the resurrection argues that Jesus was not dead on the cross.
- d. Pilate gave him permission

#### 2. Nicodemus

- a. Same Nicodemus of John 3:1,2
- b. Brought spices to anoint the body of Christ for burial - 19:39

#### 3. These two prepared the body of the Lord for burial - 19:40

### B. The place for His burial - 19:41-42

**19:41** "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. **42** There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand."

- 1. There was a garden near Golgotha
- 2. "And in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid"
  - a. This tomb belonged to Joseph of Arimathea - Matthew 27:60
  - b. Fulfilled prophecy that Messiah would be buried with the rich. This is especially compelling since Christ was not rich and had associated with the poor His entire life  
Isaiah 53:9
- 3. "The sepulchre was nigh at hand"

## LIFE LESSONS

- 1. Worship the Lamb that was slain! - Revelation 5
- 2. Rejoice in the fact that the work of your salvation "is finished". That which is finished needs nothing to be added to it.

<sup>8</sup> Pentecost, 487.