

An Eventful Three Days

John 19:31-42

Intro:

This morning, I would like to read to you some quotes from our founding Fathers about their faith.

John Adams

The general principles on which the founding fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book and every member should regulate his conduct by it. . . . What a Eutopia – what a Paradise would this region be!

John Quincy Adams

In the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior. The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity.⁸

Samuel Adams

I . . . [rely] upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.

Josiah Bartlett

Called on the people of New Hampshire . . . to confess before God their aggravated transgressions and to implore His pardon and forgiveness through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ . . .

Elias Boudinot

Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned...

Charles Carroll

On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits, not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.²¹

John Dickinson

[Governments] could not give the rights essential to happiness... We claim them from a higher source: from the King of kings, and Lord of all the earth.²⁷

Benjamin Franklin

As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and His religion as He left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is likely to see.

John Hancock

He called on the entire state to pray "that universal happiness may be established in the world [and] that all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His glory."³⁸

Patrick Henry

Being a Christian... is a character which I prize far above all this world has or can boast.⁴⁸
The Bible... is a book worth more than all the other books that were ever printed.⁴⁹
Righteousness alone can exalt [America] as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson

I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be: sincerely attached to His doctrines in preference to all others.⁶⁵

I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ.⁶⁶

Francis Scott Key

[M]ay I always hear that you are following the guidance of that blessed Spirit that will lead you into all truth, leaning on that Almighty arm that has been extended to deliver you, trusting only in the only Savior, and going on in your way to Him rejoicing.⁷⁰

Joseph Story

One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law. There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations. I verily believe that Christianity is necessary to support a civil society

George Washington

The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger.

The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.

PRAY

There has never been another time in human history where more Christian men came together to build a nation than during the time of our founding fathers.

You can read quote after quote from these men. They all wanted a government that reflected Christian principles. These Christian men and many women were willing to die for the chance to worship God in peace.

So here's the question so many ask... **Where did their passion and drive come from?**

-I think the answer is found in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Would you turn with me to **John 19:31-42?**

Here in this passage, John shows his passion for the cross and for the Lost who need to believe.

READ...

CPT: John had a passion for the cross and for those who were unaware of its power.

In this passage of scripture, John stops to say verse 35...this parenthetical note was important for John to make clear. He wanted his readers to fully understand the gravity of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. You can here the tone in his voice as he says, "HE KNOWS THAT HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH!" Of course John is speaking in third person as was his custom all throughout his book; never wanting undue attention to be drawn to himself. Instead he wanted to tell everyone he could through his book, "I am not telling a lie, a fable, a good story. I am telling the Gospel Truth and you oughta believe!"

Now, the Apostle John did not live in a free country like we do. In fact, he lived under complete and utter tyranny. Most all Christians who ever lived on this earth lived under tyranny.

But to the Apostle John what the state did to him didn't matter. He was going to shout it from the roof tops that Jesus Christ came, died, resurrected, and is coming again!

CPS: How much passion do you have for the cross and for those unaware of its power?

We live in a country that still allows freedom of religion. We can tell anyone about our faith.

But do we? Sometimes it seems like we forget what our founding fathers fought for and we loose our passion for the cross and the lost.

If we compared today's generation of Christians to the Christians who founded this country, would we even be close to the passion they had for the Lord?

-No, we're not fighting a revolutionary war today, but we are engaged in a battle against Satan and his evil forces which seek to undermine and destroy his country.

John had a broken heart for his people who had not believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul did too. He said this about his people...I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. I wish I could be accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my countrymen.

This morning as we take communion as a church family I would like for you to take it while praying for your country. Meditate on Christ and what he did for you on the cross, but pray for our lost American neighbors.