

June 22, 2014
Behold Your King!
John 19:1-15

CPT: Despite the innocence of Jesus, Pilates' cowardice and the chief priests hatred, were enough to sentence Jesus to death.

Even though Pilate could not find anything in Jesus worthy enough for execution he chose crucifixion so that he could save his own skin. Pilate sacrificed Jesus to save his life. The chief priests who were in charge of all of Israel under Roman Authority hated Jesus. Why? b/c he threatened their entire way of life. In this passage we see the cowardice, self-preservation, and hatred on the part of Pilate and the chief priests. They rejected Jesus because one, Pilate was afraid of popular opinion and two because Jesus' teachings would change Jewish lifestyle and culture. The same reasons people reject Jesus today...Fear of man, fear of changing lifestyle. John's purpose in including this passage in his book for us to read today was for us to understand that Jesus was sinless; that he was innocently put to death. When you think of it theologically, the sinlessness of Jesus is huge to the Gospel. Matter of fact without the sinlessness of Jesus the entire Gospel falls apart. If Jesus was a sinner, His death would be meaningless for us today.

CPS: Only the sinless Lord Jesus can take away sin.

I can't do it for you. Your family cannot do it for you. Trying to live right won't take away your sins. Only the sinless Lord Jesus can take away your sin. In our world today, there is an intrinsic understanding in all our souls of the presence of sin. We all know we are sinners. Someone who claims not to sin is being prideful. No rational minded thinker believes he is faultless. In fact, every world religion has some sort of teaching on sin. The difference in opinion in our world today is how to be forgiven of sin. Buddhists say follow the eight-fold path. Hindus say try your best. Catholics say go to confession. Muslims deny human sin nature but readily admit that their god demands obedience. As Evangelicals, we believe in substitutionary atonement of sin. That means that a sinless Jesus willingly died in our place receiving the penalty of our sin. We believe that the sinless Lord Jesus took our sins away at his expense.

PSS: The sermon this morning boils down to one thing and that's found in 2 Cor. 5:21...Would you turn there?

TS: In the time we have left, I would like to preach a sermon on the two major accomplishments of the sinless Lord Jesus and how they should mean the world to you

... #1 The Sinless blood of Jesus was able to satisfy God's anger toward your sin

E: Hebrews 9:22 says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."

This is the system that God put in place for sin forgiveness. All the way back in the OT God said this in

Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life." In OT times before Jesus died on the cross, the Israelites would bring a spotless perfect lamb to the altar in the temple where a priest would assist them in sacrificing it for them. The blood of the lamb symbolized the coming lamb of God who would take away sin. You see, animal sacrifices in the OT never atoned for people sin; it never actually forgave them of their sin. God commanded them to do it as a picture of the coming cross, where a sinless Jesus would die and shed His blood. The question many Christians have is, "How were people saved in the OT if animal sacrifice didn't remove their sin?" -The same way people are saved today-by faith. By faith. By believing in the coming savior who would one day take their sin away. By believing that promise and trusting God they were saved. We believe by faith that the savior came and took away our sin. We believe and trust God for our salvation. They looked toward the cross, we look back to the cross.

The shedding of the blood of the sinless Lord Jesus was always God's way of atoning for sin. The cross was never plan B. The Cross was always the plan.

Acts 2:23 (I'm paraphrasing) " Jesus was delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God..then Peter said,"You nailed to the cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death." It was God's predetermined plan to send Jesus to earth to bear your punishment. You see as sinners God cannot even look at us. God is jealous for his holiness. It would undermine God's character for him to associate with sinners at all. He would be less than perfect if he allowed us in his presence. All His anger; all his wrath towards us was directed away from us and towards Jesus on the cross. Jesus bore our shame. Jesus carried our sin. He absorbed all that we deserve. He satisfied God's anger by shedding His innocent blood. This description of God is not popular in today's culture. A God who is angry, wrathful, is not the picture of God the world wants to worship. Many Christians today conveniently avoid such characteristics of God leaning on His love and mercy more so. What those people do not understand is that there could never be mercy for us if God was not first merciless towards his Son. God would not be a God of Love if he did not first hate sin. God's wrath would not be satisfied if Jesus was not sinless. If Jesus committed sin then he would need redemption; he would need forgiveness. Jesus would not be able to see to our sin if he had his own personal sin. The sinlessness of Jesus is the bedrock of the Gospel. Without it, we have nothing. This is the message we cling to. This is the only message of hope there is in this world worth telling. The perfect sinless Lord Jesus shed His blood for me, satisfying divine justice. A: Let me ask you...Is this news to you? Have you ever heard this before? Is this the first time you understand this?-If it is, then the Bible commands you to accept this by faith- That means you believe and trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation. You might just pray right where you are..."God save me a sinner by your blood!"

TS: The sinlessness of the blood of Jesus satisfied God's anger towards our sin. #2...

#2 The sinlessness of Jesus was given to us

In theological terms Christians call this imputation. That means the sinlessness of Jesus was imputed or given to us and our sin was imputed or given to Jesus on the cross. In other words God looks at us and sees Jesus and when God saw Jesus on the cross He saw you and me.

I Cor. 1:30 because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption Jesus became our wisdom, righteousness. Have you ever wondered why Jesus didn't die for our sins as a baby or a child? Or why didn't He come to earth and die that very day? Why did Jesus decide to live on this earth for so long? He did so to fulfill the requirements of the law

Matthew 5:17-18: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. In other words, "I came to be perfect for you." Jesus never lied, stole, cheated, or said a cross word. Now, Jesus' body was affected by sin; he had aches and pains like we do which are a result of sin's curse on the world, but Jesus never voluntarily sinned once. 1 Peter 2:22: "In him there was no deceit." "

Hebrews 4:25 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Jesus did something we could never do...He kept the law. He was righteous. And that righteousness, that perfection of Jesus in every respect given to any person who believes in Christ by faith. When God sees a me, he sees Jesus. His righteousness was imputed to me and to you if you believe. While we are on this topic.. I want us to go one step further in understanding this... The death of Jesus for my sin is not the reason I am going to heaven. The death of Jesus does not send anyone to heaven. Jesus taking away your sins does not cause you to deserve heaven at all. You see, just because our sins are removed doesn't mean we deserve heaven. It just means we don't deserve hell. Follow me...our sins being imputed to Christ only means that we do not deserve hell. God must then impute Christ's righteousness to us in order for us to deserve heaven. It's a double imputation, not a single. Christ fulfilled all of the ten commandments for us. When I stand before God one day I will be found not guilty of sin and I will also be found worthy to enter heaven because of my righteousness given to me by Jesus. We often say and it's true salvation is by

grace not by works.-and that's true we are incapable of following the law perfectly on our own. But salvation is by works! Not our works! But Christ's works on our behalf.

Conclusion, Pilate could find no guilt in Jesus.-That's because there was none to see. Where does that leave us today? If you are here today relying on your own good deeds to get you into heaven you will be sorely mistaken one day. The truth is all men are estranged from God. There is a separation between us and God. In business when two parties cannot agree, you call in a mediator to resolve the differences; a third party that has no invested interest in the company; who can find middle ground for the two parties to agree on. Usually both parties compromise on some of their wishes. Not God though, He does not compromise his wishes. There is not middle ground to be found between God and man. Gods standards do not bend. So God did what only God could do. He sent his son to be a mediator between man and God. Not to find middle ground, not to compromise, but to fulfill all the requirements of God. The mediator Jesus paid the penalty for man's sin on the cross. He shed his innocent blood for mine. You can be saved today if you accept all this by faith. that means you believe Jesus died for you and that only through him you can be saved. And for all the believers here today..never grow cold or indifferent to the Gospel. Preach the Gospel to yourself everyday. 2 Cor. 5:21...