

The Price for Redemption! (Slide 1)

John 19

Reading: Romans 5:6-8

Ephesians 3:1-6 (Slide 2)

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; 3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. (Slide 3) 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (Slide 4) 6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel

What a great blessing it is to have what was once a mystery revealed to us this day through the Holy Scriptures.

From the Old Covenant we learn of a promise and the writers of the New Covenant reveal the story of the promise through Christ Jesus.

So precious is this word of truth that during WW2, two ladies who would become prisoners of the Germans and would also become holocaust survivors, knowing they were to lose access to the Bible, memorized much of the Holy scripture. Particularly, Psalm 91.

It should be our intent when reading about the trial, the torture, and death of our Lord that we see the reality of the promise fulfilled by the Only Begotten of God, paying a heavy price for our Spiritual Freedom.

The perfect for the imperfect:

Romans 5:8-9 (Slide 5)

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Why are we justified? Because Jesus endured the wrath of God for us! He took what we deserve!!

The Price for Redemption!

John 19:1-3 (Slide 6)

1 Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; 3 and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face.

The Romans were experts in methods of torture. It would be a very devastating event for the body and the mind to fall into the hands of the Romans. It seems from Roman History that torturing someone brought them pleasure.

Jesus was scourged! That was a common practice for the Romans to scourge someone before execution. They would strip the accused and strap them down over a slab of rock and mercilessly whip the accused.

Some historians say the whip used by the Romans was fashioned with jagged bones, metal balls and spikes (some say the spikes were fashioned like a hook) that would dig into the flesh with each lash ripping and throwing the flesh and blood into the air as it was drawn back for another strike.

Jesus would have gaping wounds from such torture even before going to the cross. The punishment of scourging was often severe enough to kill even the strongest of men.

It's interesting that it was prohibited for a Roman citizen to be scourged. This further validates the superiority the Romans felt over any race.

Once the scouring was completed, Jesus likely, loose from the cords or ropes, fell to the ground. They picked him up and put His clothes back on Him. His clothing became blood soaked, not from just His back but His legs, the side of His body and perhaps some on His chest from the instrument of torture.

"And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns"

I believe the crown of thorns satisfied two depraved intentions of the Romans soldiers. First to inflict more pain upon Jesus, who they despised, not because he claimed to be a "King" but because He was a Jew.

The Romans loathed the Jews. All of them. Which is a bit of sick irony on the part of the Jews because of their outcry for help in carrying out such a dastardly deed of committing murder by the Romans for the riotous and spiteful Jewish leadership.

Secondly, the Romans enjoyed torture. The crown of thorns was a tightly wound wreath of an extremely strong plant material such as we might envision, a briar patch, with long sharp pointed thorns that acted as spikes that would go into the flesh causing pain and blood to flow from the wounds.

Not only did this satisfy their hunger for torture, it served as a way to devilishly mock Jesus for His claim of being a King.

"and put a purple robe on Him"

Why a purple robe? Purple represents royalty or position of power. The rich man in the parable with Lazarus was dressed in purple.

Luke 16:19 (Slide 7)

“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.”

After the defeat of the Midianites by Gideon, guided by the hand of God, the people lay out the spoils from the victory:

Judges 8:26 (Slide 8)

The weight of the gold earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian

Purple signified prominence in some way. But in this case with Jesus, the color was used to create a scene of mockery as the soldiers, no doubt, laughing, jeering and vulgarly jesting expressed their contempt for him by sadistically shouting:

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

and to give Him slaps in the face.

The slap solidifies their true feelings because it was done repeatedly and very hard!! Another form of mockery and disdain for one they deeply felt shouldn't be allowed to live.

Yet, Pilate feared Jesus and what He represented. He feared the circumstance and uproar that He was charged to keep from happening. It was a fear based upon complete ignorance. Ignorance of Jewish history and prophecy. Perhaps one in his position would have benefited from knowing more about the Jewish tradition regarding the Christ.

But Pilate wished sincerely to wash his hands of the whole matter and release Jesus. His wife had told him in:

Matthew 27:19 (Slide 9)

“Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him.”

That stoked the fear within him to a greater level and in desperation he tells the Jews standing without the Praetorium:

(Slide 10) ***“Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.”***

In his mind he thought surely they would see His condition and that He had been humiliated and punished for claiming kingship before them. With confused anxiety he presents Jesus, scourged, bloodied, wearing the blood soaked robe barely able to stand and says:

“Behold, the Man!”

Surely now they will see I have done enough and I can end this before it gets out of hand and affects me and my position before Caesar.

Pilate also knew that it wasn't because of any religious jeopardy that the Jews accused Him, it was because of jealousy and envy that they brought Jesus to him:

Matthew 27:17-18 (Slide 11)

17 So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”
18 For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over.

In John 18, the end of the chapter, the Jews cried out release Barabbas and in a bone chilling blood thirsty cry shouted:

(Slide 12) ***Crucify, Crucify!!!***

Once again Pilate wished to have no part of His crucifixion and told them:

“Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.”

The Jewish leadership spoke to Pilate and said not so fast:

(Slide 13) The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

Because of this statement Pilate was even more “afraid,” or we might say “more uneasy.” With what little he knows about Jewish history, that this man claims to be the Son of their God, and the warning from his wife, perhaps it would be wrong to mistreat this man. In reality, he has already gone too far which adds to his anxiety over the matter.

He returns to confront Jesus and with tremendous concern in his voice asks:

(Slide 14) “Where are you from?”

In other words, “Where is your kingdom?” In Pilate’s mind because of what he has been told, where is the kingdom and how great a threat are they to Roman rule?

But Jesus would not say a word and Pilate with even greater frustration, fearful anger and anxiety tells him:

“You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

Pilate mistakenly, as so many have in the life of Jesus, thought that he was in charge when nothing could be further from the truth!!

(Slide 15) ***Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."***

Pilate sought even more to find a way out of this mess he unwittingly found himself in and sought even more to release Him.

But the Jews, the chosen people, people of promise, people who descended from great patriarchs, people who were desperately hungering for a Messiah allowed their leadership to cause them to have the greater sin!!

With condemnation in their voices, fueled by hatred and jealousy the Jews spoke:

(Slide 16) ***"If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar."***

Exasperated, bewildered and afraid Pilate sat down and with an intense and worried defeat in his eyes and said:

"Behold, your King!"

The Jewish leadership would lie, that is, say anything and stand in "Hypocrisy" to get what they wanted.

And as we will see in our next lesson.....they got more than they bargained for!!

(Slide 17) ***So they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."***

Their voice was like a death chant that has reverberated and reared itself throughout History. It is equivalent to nation against nation as many in our

own history have cried "Death to America!" And we are moved to anger and action to prevent that very thing.

But Jesus barely able to stand, reeling from the torture He has already endured, as a pure lamb for the slaughter, awaits the very reason He came to earth, to die on the cross.

The Price for Redemption!

Invitation

I cannot propose any other way to convince anyone regarding "The Price for our Redemption," other than what is recorded in the Bible. It is hard to wrap my mind around what Jesus endured and what He has done to set me free from sin and to offer salvation to me and to you.

Accept His offer! Become a child of God today by surrendering your will to His and be baptized for the remission of sin.

If you are a child of God but need the prayers of your Brethren, please let us know and we will be happy to petition God on your behalf.

Whatever we can do to serve you this day please let us know.

Reading:

Romans 5:6-8

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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