

## SERMON NOTES



MAR 24, 2024

### ***Standing by the Cross***

John 19:17-27

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**Overview:** John's account of the crucifixion of Jesus is remarkably brief yet impressively detailed at the same time. John notes that Jesus is forced to carry His cross to Golgotha, the Place of a Skull, and he notes where Jesus is placed, between two others. Pilate's inscription describes Jesus as the "King of the Jews," and is written in multiple languages for all to read. Despite the protests of the Jewish leaders who want the sign to read "This man said, I am King of the Jews," Pilate remains undeterred, and the inscription stands. John is also careful to relate the soldiers' actions with regard to Jesus' clothing. While seemingly a minor detail, John notes that even the smallest actions of that moment fulfill prophecy. Finally, John observes that Jesus is not entirely alone as His mother and others, along with one remaining disciple, witness the barbarity of the cross while receiving assuring words from Jesus. This brief but detailed account of Jesus' crucifixion proclaims Jesus as King and provides hope to all who stand with Him.

**01. The death of Jesus, having been planned before the foundation of the world, is carried out in minute detail for the purpose of assuring us that Jesus' death is not an accident but went according to plan.**

**02. The death of Jesus, being a traumatic event in the life of His followers, is recorded in loving detail for the purpose of reminding us that Jesus' death brings us to God and in relationship with one another.**

# That You May Believe

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & DISCOVERY

1. John notes that Jesus carried His own cross to the Place of a Skull, whereas Matthew indicates that Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry the cross for Jesus (Matthew 27:32). In what way does Jesus carrying the cross foreshadow Him carrying our sins away? In what way does Simon carrying the cross illustrate the need for us to bear the cross as disciples of Jesus? See Luke 14:27 for further insight.

2. What is the symbolic significance of Jesus being crucified at "The Place of a Skull" (verse 17)? Note how John focuses on the brutality of Jesus' suffering and death in this chapter. How do these descriptions of evil and terror associated with the cross point to the horror and ugliness of our sins which He had to bear? See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and Revelation 21:8 for further insight.

3. What is the significance of the sign posted by Pilate (verses 19-23)? What was the effect of having the statement translated into three languages? Why did the Jewish leaders demand a change in wording? How did the sign serve as both an accusation and an announcement? Do you think this text has a bearing on the importance of Bible translation, such that all people can consider the claims of Jesus?

4. Why does John report what happened to Jesus' clothing? In what way did the soldiers unwittingly fulfill prophecy? Can you think of other biblical examples where people, for good or ill, fulfill prophecy without intending to do so? What do such fulfillments indicate about God's sovereignty over history?

5. Trace the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, throughout the Gospels. What is the nature of her faith? Does she ever abandon her Son? Why is it wrong to suggest that Mary is a co-redeemer, along with Jesus? In what way can we appreciate Mary's love for Jesus without elevating her beyond what the Bible teaches?

**For Further Reading: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The Cross* (Crossway, 1986).**

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