

Who is Jesus?: The Prepared Lamb

John 19:12-16

Introduction

- **A.W. Pink** (early 20th Century pastor & theologian), *“The death of Christ may be viewed from five main viewpoints. From the standpoint of God the Cross was a propitiation (Rom. 3:25-26), where full satisfaction was made to His holiness and justice. From the standpoint of the Savior, it was a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2), an offering (Heb. 9:14), an act of obedience (Phil. 2:8). From the standpoint of believers, it was a substitution, the Just suffering for the unjust (1 Pet. 3:18). From the standpoint of Satan it was a triumph and a defeat: a triumph, in that he bruised the heel of the woman’s Seed (Gen. 3:15); a defeat, in that through His death Christ destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil (Heb. 2: 14). From the standpoint of the world it was a brutal murder (Acts 3:15).”*

The Dilemma – Allegiance (v.12)

- **V.12** – Pilate seems to “try” and release Christ, although this somewhat opposes what he told Christ in verse 10. If he really had the authority he claimed, nothing could stop him. But there is irony here as we see that his power is not as absolute as he thought or claimed. The Jews saw to this by basically challenging the very fabric of his rule...allegiance to Caesar.

The Judgment – Above (v.13)

- **V.13** – Upon hearing this claim by the Jews, Pilate then brought Jesus to the Judgment Seat. The judgment seat here is the “bema” seat and the place of Gabbatha is an elevated place that is fairly elaborately paved with a mosaic of stones. It appears this is an official place judgment and sentencing for the Roman. Keep this in mind as you work through the preparation of Christ even from God’s perspective as a substitute in atoning for the sins of His people.
 - Seat of assessment and sentencing (i.e. – Great white throne judgment and Bema seat...one in the same?)
 - **Psalm 94:20-21**

- He is bearing the judgment as the only one who has the authority to judge
- **John 5:22-24**

The Lamb Prepared – Atonement (v.14)

- **V.14** – John points this out. It is fact, but there is something here of emphasis for John, and we need to pay attention. John had already spoken of Christ being the Lamb of God (cross-ref through John). What about the “sixth hour”? He’s presented as “Behold your King”
 - Some interpretive issues:
 - “day of preparation” – day of Passover? What about the Lord’s supper, then? Preparation meal? Evenings, for the Jew, begins the next day, so that could be in keeping, tying John in with the synoptics
 - Preparation of themselves
 - Preparation of sacrifice
 - 6th hour – synoptics (**Mark 15:25**) speak of the 3rd hour for the crucifixion around 9am. **Could be a generalization of it nearing midday, or, John is specifically drawing attention to the fact that the hour in which Lambs are sacrificed on Passover is around noon – very likely given the context.**
 - While this passage is primarily about man’s side of things in Christ being delivered up, it’s as if at this point John wants to interject (as he regularly does) that this is all part of His plan for the redemption of His people, and we need to remember His substitute.
 - **The First Passover – Exodus 12:1-20 (READ)**
 - **Man’s Sinfulness**
 - Condemned already (John 3:18)
 - Passover shows that the only ones NOT condemned are those whom God has chosen to Pass-over because they obeyed and the blood of the lamb was applied to their households.
 - **God’s Mediator**

- Moses delivering the word of God – and subsequent high priests...even Caiaphas
- Jesus is the Word (logos) of God
- **God's Provision (Lamb) – John understood this**
 - **John 1:29**
 - **John 1:36**
 - **Rev.7:17**
 - **Rev.14:10**
 - **Rev.15:3-4**
 - **Rev.19:6-10**
 - **Rev.21:23**
 - **Rev.22:1-3**
- **“Behold your King”** – the shameful view...beaten, bruised, crown of thorns instead of diadems, blood drenched robe instead of a beautiful garment to array Him in majesty, taken by earthly authorities, being judged by the men that He himself made!
 - **Do you see how “otherworldly” He appears?** How “worldly” have you made Jesus by claiming Him as your own only to really be following the schemes and pursuits of the world?

The Lamb Delivered - Acceptable (vv.15-16a)

- **V.15** – Their response is to make clear “crucify him”. Pilate responds, “Shall I crucify your King?” This brings the people’s response, “We have no king but Caesar.” So, the kingdom’s of men “plot and scheme” they “rage” to no avail. There is a blending of kingdom, priesthood, sacrifice here.
- **The only acceptable sacrifice for the continuation of men’s kingdoms was actually God’s only acceptable sacrifice for the fulfillment of His eternal kingdom**
 - **Acts 4:23-31 (READ)**
 - **They show their slavery to sin and men again and again.** God gave them laws in the Exodus to maintain the covenant with the people and to expose their slavery to sin. All of this, of course, points to the only righteous sacrifice of Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the Law, satisfying God’s righteous requirements. As well,

Jesus died the perfect death as an atoning sacrifice, satisfying God’s righteous punishment for sin. Validated, Christ is then raised from the dead, satisfying God’s righteous demand for a mediator / priest between Himself and man that is Christ our interceding high priest.

- **Exodus imagery here and historical Israel.** There is a mingling with other nations and adopting their gods. This always brought judgment upon God’s people. This is the backdrop for the first Passover.
- **John 1:11**
- **V.16** – So, the natural result here is the deliverance of Christ to be crucified.
 - **Romans 4:23-25**
 - **Romans 8:32**
 - **Acts 8:26-35 (READ)**

The Application

- A) For Pilate, the final say was a threat to his allegiance to Caesar. What allegiance, if threatened, would be your final say in a matter? The kings of men or King Jesus? If you decisions and actions were to challenge your allegiances, whose would you choose?
 - a. Moral decision in a relationship?
 - b. Ethical decision at work?
 - c. Financial decisions at home?
 - d. We are constantly having our allegiances challenged. Who would others say is YOUR king?
- B) Dear suffering Christian – consider again Hebrews 12:1-2. Don’t give up the fight for holiness in your life. Jesus died to secure His promise to make you holy. There is no earthly shame worth comparing to the eternal weight of glory in His presence!
- C) Dear sinner! What do you offer to a holy and perfect God as a sacrifice to say that you are worthy to be in His presence for eternity? There is no other sufficient sacrifice but Christ Himself! In our place, condemned and judged.