

The Crucifixion of Jesus

John 19:17-27

September 24, 2023

1. The Place of the Skull (17-18)
 - a. Jesus went out of the city bearing His own cross (17a).
 - b. The place of crucifixion was called Golgotha, "the place of the skull" (17b).
 - i. In Latin, the term for skull is "calvaria" where we get our name Calvary.
 - ii. This place would likely have been along a roadway to make the execution highly visible.
 - c. Jesus was crucified between two criminals (18).
 - i. Jesus' position in the middle made Him the focal point of the crucifixion.
 - ii. Jesus would have been hung on a cross just a few feet above the ground, fully accessible to the mocking brutal crowd around Him.
2. The Title of the King (19-22)
 - a. It was common for the criminal's charge to be nailed to the cross above his head.
 - b. Pilate's inscription became a royal proclamation, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews (19).
 - c. The title was written in 3 major languages so that anyone traveling that road of any nationality would have been able to read it (20).
 - i. Aramaic was the language of the Jews and that region.
 - ii. Latin was the language of the Romans and the Roman government.
 - iii. Greek was the language of trade and commerce.
 - d. The fact that Pilate refused to change the title shows that even on the cross, Jesus was dictating the terms of His crucifixion and His rule over His creation (21-22).
3. The Tunic of the Priest (23-24)
 - a. The soldiers divided Jesus' outer garments into four parts, likely an outer garment, shoes, belt, and possibly a head covering.
 - b. The coat, likely the inner garment, was deemed too valuable to divide, so they cast lots for it.
 - i. The inner coat was very special; it was without seams, woven from the top to the bottom.
 - ii. The word for "woven" here occurs in the LXX when referring to priestly garments (Exodus 28:6, 32) which were woven from top to bottom without seams.
 - c. The fact that the soldiers cast lots for that garment was in fulfillment of Psalm 22:18 "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."
 - d. Just as the title over Christ's head proclaimed Him as King, the parting of Jesus' garments in fulfillment of Scripture proclaims Jesus to be Priest and Sacrifice (cf. Hebrews 7:27).
4. The Family of the Son (25-27)
 - a. The earthly family of Jesus are gathered at the foot of the cross:
 - i. Mary, the mother of Jesus
 - ii. Mary's unnamed sister, Jesus' aunt
 - iii. Mary the wife of Clopas; Clopas was the brother of Joseph, husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus; so this Mary was Jesus' aunt on his earthly father's side.
 - iv. Mary Magdalene, the best known female disciple of Christ and the first witness to His resurrection.
 - v. John, the Beloved Disciple
 - b. In this moment, Jesus distances Himself from His earthly mother, and extends membership in His family to any who believe on His name (cf. John 1:12-13).
 - i. Jesus addresses His mother as "woman" rather than "mother" intentionally distancing Himself from her as He has done previously (cf. 2:4). In a human sense, their blood relationship as mother and son has come to an end.
 - ii. Jesus is the unique Son of God the Father.
 - iii. Through His own blood, Jesus establishes a new family in which His disciples are members of His royal family, the children of God as described in John 1:12-13.

Conclusion:

1. Have you found life through Christ's death?
2. Have you bowed your knee and confessed that Christ is your Lord and Savior (Philippians 2:10-11)?
3. Do you believe that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient to atone for your sins?
4. Do you enjoy sonship in the family of God?
5. How are you treating brothers and sisters in Christ?