

**Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore**  
**Good Friday — April 10, 2020**  
**“A Crucified King”**

**Introduction**

- This past Sunday (Palm Sunday), we celebrated the triumphal entry of Jesus in to Jerusalem.
- This evening, we now look at the final moments of Jesus’ life on earth and His arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death.

**Scripture: Matthew 26-27**

**Verses 1-5**

- **Matthew 26:2**, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”
- The Pharisees and elders gather together to finalize plans to have Jesus arrested and killed.

**Verses 6-35:** Jesus spends time with his disciples, Judas makes his plan to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, Jesus celebrates Passover with his disciples, and Peter is forewarned that he would deny Jesus 3 times before the rooster crows.

**Verses 36-46: Prayer in Gethsemane**

**36** Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” **37** And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. **38** Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” **39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” **40** And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **42** Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” **43** And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. **45** Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

**Garden Prayer**

- Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to spend time in prayer.
- It is at this moment He begins to feel “**sorrowful**” [deeply pained/grieved] and “**troubled**” [feeling of fear/distressed].

- **Luke 22:44**, “And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” **[Hematidrosis]**
- We see the intense, painful conflict that Jesus is in.
- **QUOTE:** “In one sense God can do anything, but in another sense He binds Himself to certain courses of action because of His own purposes.” (Dr. Thomas Constable)
- Jesus is about to suffer and die in obedience to His Father’s will.
  - What a model prayer for us when we are in difficulty and don’t know what to do.
- He prays a similar prayer 3 times while in the garden, right up to the point of His arrest.

### **Verses 47-56: Betrayal and Arrest**

- In ‘king-like’ fashion, Jesus remains calm during His arrest, despite Peter cutting the ear off of the high priest’s servant **[Malchus; John 18:10]**
  - Jesus knew He could call on tens of thousands of angels to come protect Him, but He didn’t need protection.
- Verses 53-54, 56: serve as fulfillment of prophecy.
 

**53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?...”

**56** But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.”
- Everything that was spoken about the coming Messiah is now being fulfilled in front of their eyes.
- Nothing and No one would stop what needed to be done!
- And in a very somber moment, all of Jesus’ beloved disciples run and leave Him.

### **Verses 57-68: Trial before the Sanhedrin**

- Seeking false testimony as to put Jesus to death... **Verse 59**, “But they found none”.
- There was nothing they could do except find two people that would provide false claims against Jesus for saying He would destroy the temple.
  - **John 2:19, 21**, “Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up’...But he was speaking about the temple of his body.”
  - In Jewish tradition, they held threats against the temple as punishable by death.
- Verse 63: Amidst all the false accusations...“Jesus remained silent.” **[no need to defend Himself; that’s not why He’s there]**
  - **Isaiah 53:7**, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

- The illegalities of Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin; (Laurina L. Berg, *The Illegalities of Jesus' Religious and Civil Trials*)
  - “For a trial such as this a quorum was twenty-three [of the 71 Sanhedrin members]. It had certain regulations:
    - All criminal cases must be tried during the daytime and must be completed during the daytime.
    - Criminal cases could not be transacted during the Passover season at all.
    - Only if the verdict was Not Guilty could a case be finished on the day it was begun; otherwise a night must elapse before the pronouncement of the verdict, so that feelings of mercy might have time to arise.
    - In regard to witnesses, all evidence had to be guaranteed by two witnesses separately examined, and having no contact with each other.
    - Still further, in any trial the process began by the laying before the court of all the evidence for the *innocence* of the accused, before the evidence for his guilt was adduced.”
  - Legal or illegal. Fair or unjust. This was all meant to fulfill God's original plan to save mankind from their sins.
    - But it clearly shows the depravity of man's sin that will go to any length and do anything to get what it's evil intentions desire.
  - But when asked to respond to the claim that He was the Messiah, Jesus responds in the affirmative [**“You have said so”**], giving a clear answer to His deity, not just as a political Messiah/King.
  - Convicting Jesus of blasphemy, they declared He should be put to death.
- The physical abuse against Jesus begins at the hands of the religious elite.

## **Chapter 27**

### **Verses 1-14: Trials before the Roman officials**

**11** Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You have said so.”

- Jesus reaffirms before Pilate that He was “King of the Jews”.
  - **Luke 23:6-12**, Pilate sends Jesus to Herod Antipas for further questioning. Only for Herod to send Jesus back to Pilate, but not before mocking and ridiculing Jesus.

### **Verses 15-31: Jesus stands accused**

- According to tradition, Roman officials would release one Jewish prisoner as a sort of gift/‘olive branch’ to keep the peace during Passover.
- Barabbas is released and the crowd demands that Jesus be crucified, even though Pilate declares that he finds no fault in Jesus.

- Desiring to save His own reputation and keep as much peace in his district, Pilate releases Barabbas, scourges Jesus, and delivers Him to be crucified.
  - **Isaiah 53:7-8a**, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away..”
  - Jesus was beaten and whipped with a flagellum **[leather whip with pieces of rock, bone, and/or metal embedded in to it]**.
  - According to Josephus, this type of scourging turned “human flesh into pulp and exposed the bones and internal organs.”
    - The beating could be so severe that some people would succumb to the pain and die.
  - Dr. William Edwards wrote of this type of scourging in the Journal of American Medical Association stating, “The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state...The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus’ physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.”
    - Jesus spoke to this moment in **Matthew 20:19-20**, “...the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified...” **[He knew what was coming, and yet remained obedient]**
    - **Isaiah 53:5 NIV**, “...he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
- To add insult to injury, the Roman guards proceeded to mock and ridicule Jesus even further **[dressing Him as king and placing a crown of thorns on His head]**.
- The religious elite mocked, spat on, and abused Jesus as a false Messiah.
- Now the political elite mock, spat on, and abuse Him as a false king.
- We’re not even at the cross yet...
- **REMEMBER: [as stated by R.T. France]** “The ultimate explanation of the cross is neither Jewish hostility nor Roman injustice, but the declared purpose of God.”

### **Verses 32-44: The crucifixion**

- Jesus is now led away to a place called Golgotha, outside the city walls.
  - Most likely, Jesus carried just the crossbeam.
- Upon arrival, they gave Him something to drink; wine mixed with gall **[meant to dull the further pain He was about to suffer]**, but He refused.

- **Psalms 69:20-21**, “Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none...and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.”
- Nails were driven into the wrists on either side too support the weight of the individual.
- His knees were buckled/bent and his feet were nailed together giving Him the option to push up on his feet to gather His breath.
- Tradition states that the Romans would attach a ‘sedulum’ or seat on which the person could momentarily rest.
  - Some attest that this would have been placed around His lower back so that he would have to push up on the nails in his feet to be able to sit down.
  - But then the pain would be so terrible that he would have no recourse but to fall back down, restricting his breath, slowly suffocating.
- The guards then cast lots for Jesus clothes, fulfilling another prophesy.
  - **John 19:23-24**, “When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.’”
  - **Psalms 22:18**, “they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”
- **Verse 37**: A sign is placed over Jesus head which read, “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”
- He is publicly mocked by the chief priests, scribes, elders, the guards, and even those crucified next to Him.
  - **Isaiah 53:12**, “...because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.”
  - According to **Luke 23**, one of those criminals would eventually receive salvation.
- INTERESTING: Mocking Jesus to save Himself.. when the very purpose of Him hanging on that cross was for their salvation. **[how Jesus is ridiculed today when people mention His name]**
  - I think back to the shouts of praise for Jesus as He entered Jerusalem... “Hosanna!” **[save us now]**.
    - Through His suffering on the cross, Jesus now responds to those praises, “I am!”
  - **Verse 42**: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.”
    - the extent of man’s evil, selfish intent, “Give me what I want, and then I’ll believe.”

## Verses 45-54: The death of Jesus

- It is now about 12:00pm. From 12:00-3:00pm there was darkness.
  - Around 3:00pm, Jesus cries out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
  - **REMEMBER:** This is taking place during Passover.
    - Exodus 10: the 9th plague on Egypt was 3 days of darkness.
      - Darkness is commonly aligned with Judgement.
        - **Amos 8:9**, “And on that day, declares the Lord God, ‘I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.’”
      - After the darkness came the 10th plague: **death**
      - The only thing that would save a person’s life would be the shed blood of the perfect lamb.
- At this moment, Jesus bears the full weight of the humanity’s sin.
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21**, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
  - **Galatians 3:13**, “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.’”
- Jesus summons His breath to cry out two final statements from the cross.
  - **John 19:30**, “It is finished.”
    - What was accomplished/completed/fulfilled?
    - Everything our Coming, Misunderstood, Crucified King came to do.
    - All earthly ministry, purpose, intent, and prophecy up to that time fulfilled.
    - All sins forgiven and nailed to the cross.
  - **Luke 23:46**, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”
    - This is an absolutely beautiful statement.
    - **John 10:17-18**, “...I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again...”
    - Jesus, at this moment, chose to die. He laid down His life, so that we could live!

## Verses 51-54: Destructive symbols of peace

- The temple veil is torn from top to bottom.
  - Tradition states that the veil was 60 feet long, 20 feet wide, and was as thick as the palm of your hand.
  - This was an act of God, opening the way for us to enter into His presence, because of what Jesus did on the cross.
  - **John 1:29**, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”
  - **John 14:6**, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- Through this act, we are sanctified. Washed clean by the blood of the sacrificial Lamb.
- This is why we now label this day '**Good Friday**'.

### **Conclusion/Prayer**

- **Romans 10:9**, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
- **Romans 10:13**, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Jesus, my life is broken — I recognize it's because of my sin that I need you. I believe that Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead, to rescue me from my sin. — Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my trust in You. — I know that Jesus is Lord of all, and I will follow him.