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| 1  Mark 15:1-39 Sermon Manuscript  11/26/23  “Truly This Man Was The Son of God!”  INTRO:  One of principle errors of character of God = God is like us  -The wrath of God  God’s wrath at cross = fickle, retributive wrath out of the passion of our anger perhaps delighting in suffering of victims  Many professing believers – penal substitutionary atonement = doctrine that Christ took our place for our sins and satisfied wrath of God:  At best = pagan idea  At worst = psychologically damaging to children  “Cosmic Child Abuse”  Nothing can be further from the truth | 2  Those who reject PSA =  1. distorted view of wrath of God thinking God’s wrath is like our wrath  2. Pit wrath of God against love of God  It is precisely because God is loving that He has to punish sin  On earthly level, if you truly love child, you will discipline Him, show him your wrath so to speak, when he misbehaves  If someone you love is murdered in front of your eyes, you will get wrathful and demand justice to be served on him  If God truly is loving and that He will set up a perfect world where it is nothing but His perfect love, then all that goes against His perfect love will have to be punished and dealt with  God is not wrathful in spite of being love; God is wrathful BECAUSE God is love |
| 3  MAIN POINT:  Today you will see Son of God substituting Himself in your place, bearing the wrath of God in your place, so that you will confess like the centurion that “Truly This Man Was The Son Of God!”  BODY:  After denials of Peter, early in morning, chief priests, elders and scribes and whole Council/Sanhedrin immediately hold consultation  They agree to bind Jesus and deliver Him to Pilate  -Jews did not have authority over death sentence  but Romans did  They take him to Pilate (normally isn’t there, but was in Jerusalem to watch over the Passover make sure no riots)  V. 2 Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?”  Jesus: “It is as you say” | 4  V. 3 Chief priests began accusing Him harshly  Luke 23 tells us chief priests were accusing Jesus of telling others to not pay taxes to Caesar and that He is Christ, a king!  V. 4 Pilate questions Jesus again: “Do you not answer? See how many charges they bring against You!”  V. 5 Jesus: No answer  Pilate: “Amazed!”  “Amazed” = appears often in Gospel of Mark, but not good, because it doesn’t translate to faith  We should be amazed at Jesus, but that amazement should lead to faith in Jesus  If it doesn’t, then it means nothing. It cannot save you  V. 6 = Roman tradition of releasing one prisoner during Feast as goodwill towards Jews  -Likely to appease crowds to prevent resentment |
| 5  V. 7 Barabbas imprisoned for murder and insurrection  -John = “robber” = pillager and looter  -Matthew = “notorious” criminal = more akin to a  thug, not a hero for Jews  V. 8 Crowd asks Barabbas to be released  Pilate knows Jesus is not guilty but handed over because of “envy” in v. 10  Jews ultimately handed over Jesus because they hated Him and how He was more successful than them, more famous than them  John 12:19 *“look the whole world is going after Him”*  Romans were not concerned with nor dealt with matters relating to Jewish law  Only punished people who broke Roman laws like not paying taxes to Caesar or rebellion against government, etc. | 6  Acts 18:12-15 Jews rose up against Paul and brought him to proconsul Gallio  “*But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, saying, “This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I am not willing to be a judge of these matters.”*  But intent on murdering Jesus, chief priests stirred up crowd to demand Pilate to release Barabbas instead.  V. 12 *“What shall I do with the King of the Jews?”*  V. 13 *“Crucify Him!”*  V. 14 Still trying to save Jesus’ life: *“Why, what evil has He done?”* |
| 7  Pilate was by no means a good guy  Pilate = inconsistent and hard to control and also brutal  Luke 13 = massacred Jews and mixed their blood with sacrifices and offered it up on the altar  He made mistakes in the past, and likely if the crowds rioted again, that would be it for him  John 19:12 when Jews saw that Pilate was not giving into demands, they said hypocritically:  *“If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself to be a king opposes Caesar.”*  They didn’t care about obeying Caesar, they hated Him!  Wishing to satisfy the crowds, he released Barabbas and handed Jesus over for scourging and crucifixion | 8  Scourging = horrific act flagellum = leather whip with bits of glass, metal, or bone and designed to rip away flesh from the bone  Designed to shorten duration of crucifixion  but some victims died from brutal nature of this torture before being crucified on cross.  Scourging = horrified Roman emperor Domitian  Cross itself is horrific and excruciating execution, but as fear tactic and sadistic purposes, Romans scourged many criminals  V. 16 soldiers take Jesus away into the palace = Praetorium  Call together whole Roman cohort = est. 600 soldiers  Once again go through mockery  Crown of thorns upon his head = bleed  Purple robe: *“Hail King of the Jews!”* |
| 9  Beat His head with reed, spit on Him, kneeling and bowing before Him  V. 20 After they mocked Him, they put garments on Him, led Him out to crucify Him  Force Jesus to carry heavy wooden cross which would be about a hundred pounds.  Jesus would have been severely weakened from scourging, beatings, and lack of sleep so wouldn’t be able to carry own cross.  V. 21 Force Simon of Cyrene (father of Alexander and Rufus) to bear His cross  Somehow, someway, Simon saw the agony of Son of God, and believed, along with whole household?  Why? Rom. 16:13 Paul tells Roman church to:  *“Greet Rufus, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.”* | 10  w/Simon of Cyrene’s help, Jesus comes to Golgotha = “place of the skull”  Execution site where all can see/place of death  V. 23 = Give Jesus wine mixed with myrrh as primitive narcotic to help numb some of pain, but Jesus did not take it  Jesus was going to experience full pain of crucifixion as a man because He had to drink every drop of God’s cup of wrath  V. 24 They crucified Him  Hammer horrific nail like spikes through Jesus’ hands and feet and lifted Him up  Soldiers divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots for which men would take which clothes  Scripture was fulfilled  V. 25 Mark tells us third hour when Jesus was crucified = 9:00 am |
| 11  V. 26 = inscription of charge against Him reading “The King of the Jews”  Great irony = Jesus came to rightful heir and king of His people, but not through military might and political rebellion  Came to be Lord and King of your heart that you would not bow the knee to your sin, but to Him as Lord of Lords and King of Kings  Romans crucify two robbers, one left one right  V. 29 Those passing by were lit. “blaspheming” Jesus, shaking their heads and mocking Him  How ironic that they are committing the very blasphemy that they accused Jesus of!  In the same way, chief priests with scribes also were mocking him  *“He saved others, He cannot save Himself. Let this Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!”* | 12  If you are truly the Messiah miracle worker let’s see you do another miracle for us!  Amazingly those crucified with him, were also hurling insults to Jesus  This is the height and epitome of unbelief  No amount of miracles can convince a dead heart to believe. Remember Lazarus?  He was dead for 4 days, but Jesus raised Him from the dead  But when they told chief priests, they still didn’t believe  John 11:47-48  *“What are we doing? For this man is doing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”* |
| 13  Then V. 33 when sixth hour came = 12:00 pm-3:00 pm unnatural darkness fell over the whole land just like plague of darkness that fell over the whole land of Egypt in the book of Exodus  At brightest time of day, supernatural darkness = Not absence of God but His presence in judgment  It is a sign of judgment:  Amos 8:9 = speaks about how sun will be darkened in broad daylight as sign of judgment against nation of Israel  The Son of God will accomplish redemption in three hours for all those who would ever believe in Him.  He will bear full fury and wrath of God against sinners in judgment against sinners and their sin on that cursed cross  He will bear also full force of hell too for three hours as hell is characterized by eternal darkness | 14  The one who is described in 1 John 1:5  “*Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all”* will bear darkness of human heart which is nothing but evil continually  At ninth hour 3:00 pm Jesus = *“ELOI, ELOI LAMA SABACTHANI”*  Which is translated *“MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”*  -fulfillment of psalm 22  God’s one and only Son, for the first and last time experiencing what it likes to be judged as a sinner  When some bystanders heard it, began saying *“Behold, He is calling for Elijah”*  Jews knew that Elijah the prophet would precede Messiah before great and terrible day of the Lord according to Mal. 4:5-6  V. 36 Someone ran and filled sponge with sour wine and put it on reed and gave to him to drink |
| 15  Wasn’t act of compassion or mercy, but opposite  -Testing Jesus  *“Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down”*  Fulfillment of Ps. 69:21  *“They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”*  Sour wine = stimulant to keep Jesus awake to see if He will perform another miracle  They weren’t interested in believing in the Son of God but in theatrics, in making Jesus entertain them one more time  But Jesus refused drink and V. 37 uttered loud cry, breathed His last  Veil of temple torn in two from top to bottom  Centurion saw way Jesus breathed His last: *“Truly this man was the Son of God!”* | 16  From beginning of Gospel of Mark, we get confession that Jesus = Son of God  End of Mark = confession = Son of God  As leader of execution squad, Gentile Centurion would have certain participated in scourging and crucifixion of Jesus  As the soldiers spit and strike at Jesus over and over again, mocking him…  As they put painful crown of thorns on Him and put a purple robe on Him…  As they ripped pieces of flesh from Jesus’ bone, dehumanizing him to point beyond any human likeness Isa. 52:14 says  This man did not curse those fighting him or fight back but was silent as 1 Peter 2:23 says  *“who being reviled, was not reviling in return; while suffering, He was uttering no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously,”* |
| 17  Perhaps…he started to feel conviction and shame at his own sin  And then He saw the way Jesus breathed His last that confirmed to Him this is no ordinary man, this is truly the Son of God!  Roman Centurion would have known the normal way people die in crucifixion = asphyxiation  -grow weaker and weaker and more and more silent  But Jesus cried out His last breathe!  Out of all people, this executioner who is a Gentile came to know the Son of God  And the temple curtain was torn = new era  Jesus did away with entire sacrificial system because He became the once and for all sacrifice for all time for sinners. | 18  No longer would Israel need to be distinct from among Gentile nations to symbolically represent separateness from sin because of Jesus, the Lord, through His substitutionary death has allowed for sinners to be separate from their own sin and to be holy  And one reality you need to know in this passage:  Jesus exchanged His life to Barabbas  Barabbas account in all 4 gospels = important  Barabbas = “son of a father”  Jesus = “Son of God, Son of His heavenly Father”  One son in exchange for another son  Righteous Son of God for a sinful condemned son of a sinful father  Jesus is showing you = His substitutionary atonement |
| 19  Romans 5:8  *“God’s love is demonstrated in this, in that while we were yet RIGHTEOUS, Christ died for us?”*  NO  *“God’s love is demonstrated in this, in that while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us!”*  Jesus went through complete abandonment by His people, even being forsaken by His own Father so you wouldn’t be forsaken in hell for all eternity  He was scourged over and over again to the point where His body was marred beyond any man, just as Isaiah 52:14, 700 years earlier said  Yes He is the Son of God, but He is the Son of God by way of being the Son of Man  He had to be God to pay the sacrifice for sins  But He needed to be also a man to die and shed His blood for sins | 20  Another reality is that you need to see that Jesus’ dethronement on earth was His royal enthronement in heaven  Philippians 2:8-11  *“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* *and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*  4 X in Ch. 15 = Jesus = “King of the Jews”  References to royalty in scourging scene = purple robe, crown of thorns and false hailing of king  Yes it was done out of unbelief but they were unknowingly testifying to the Lordship of Christ |
| 21  They thought they got rid of Him but it only played into God’s predetermined plan and purpose to put His Son on the cross  His death would lead to resurrection from the dead  Resurrection from dead = ascension  ascension = descension again to judge the living and the dead for all eternity on David’s throne  His death would be the basis of one’s judgment into heaven or hell  So the question is what about you?  Mark has intentionally presented His version of the gospel to get you to confess like the centurion that Jesus “Truly is the Son of God”  No man can suffer like this man  and certainly no man can die the way Jesus did | 22  He cried out “My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? So that as Hebrews 2:9 says, He might “by the grace of God taste death for everyone”  He tasted death for you so that you wouldn’t have to taste the second death that is coming for all those who reject the kingship of Christ  The question that confronts you today is the same question that Jesus asked Peter in Mark 8, the middle of the book, “Who Do You Say That I Am?”  Is he a failed prophet, a misguided Jewish zealot, or is He truly the Son of God?  How you answer that will determine heaven or hell.  Let’s pray |