

LUKE Lesson 62

(Luke 23:22-31)

30 August 2019

Final Sentencing

22-23 Pilate's attempts to pacify the people had failed. In one final attempt to free the Lord Jesus, he had Him scourged, hoping that an act of cruelty would satisfy their blood lust. Jesus had foretold of this scourging (Lk 18:33). During this time of scourging, the soldiers platted (interweaved) a crown of thorns and imbedded it into Jesus' head with a reed (Mark 15:17-19).

Christ's wounds represent the price He paid for our sins:

1. His head: to pay for our sins of thought.
2. His hands: for the wrong things our hands have touched.
3. His feet: for the wrong places that we've visited.
4. His heart: for our sins of affection.
5. His back: for the burden of sin which we all bear.

Pilate presented Jesus one last time to the people, bloodied and disfigured (Isa 50:6, 52:14), and said, "Behold the man!" (John 19:5). The people responded, "Crucify him!" Pilate said, "YOU crucify him!" (John 19:6). By Roman law they couldn't do it, so Pilate finally surrendered to the will of the people.

Vs 24 Pilate gave the Jewish people what they required: A Roman dictator (Jn 19:15) and the bloodguilt of their Messiah (Mt 27:25). That bloodguilt is still being paid for by the Jewish people today and will be brought to a climax during the Great Tribulation (Rev 12-17).

Vs 25 They desired Barabbas. Pilate "delivered Jesus to their will." When you present Jesus Christ to a lost sinner, you are delivering Him to their will. They will either receive Him (Jn 1:12, Rev 22:17) or reject Him (Jn 5:40). "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" (Mt 27:22). What will you do?

The Procession towards Calvary:

Vs 26 Jesus bore His cross at the start of the procession (Jn 19:17). At some point along the way, the soldiers laid hold upon a man named Simon, a Cyrenian and laid the cross on him (Mt. 27:32). Why?

1. The Roman soldiers did it as an act of mockery. A king shouldn't do any physical labor.
2. The Roman soldiers *assumed* that Jesus wouldn't make the journey because they expected Him to be physically weakened from the scourging (although the Bible doesn't say that Jesus was weakened at all).

All of the Catholic illustrations of Jesus stumbling under the weight of the cross are unbiblical. There is no indication in the Bible that Jesus struggled, fell, gasped for breath, or was helped and comforted by certain individuals along the way. The Catholic "*Stations of the Cross*" are a complete fabrication built upon the imaginations of men. Jesus walked 15 minutes without the gate (outside of Jerusalem, Heb 13:12) in His own strength.

Simon was *compelled* to carry the cross and follow Jesus (Mt. 27:32).

“Compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” (Lk 14:23).

“Whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.” (Mt 5:41).

“If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Simon was the first man to take up a cross and follow Jesus after being compelled to do so. We are commanded by the Lord to do the compelling (Mk 16:15, Jn 20:21, Lk 14:21-23, 24:47-48).

Vs 27 Many people followed Jesus out of morbid curiosity. But a group of women followed Him, “which also bewailed and lamented him.” They were genuinely sorrowful that this wonderful Man is about to die.

Vs 28 Jesus carried on a conversation with the women. If He were staggering and struggling, He wouldn’t have been able to focus on their needs.

Vs 29 He warned them that hard times are coming for the Jews for their wickedness and rejection of their Messiah. This was prophesied in **Hosea 9:12-17**. The Jews have been paying for their blood guiltiness of Jesus Christ for 2,000 years (Mt 27:25).

30-31 Jesus contrasts a green tree with a dry tree. The green tree represents Israel with Jesus in their midst (life). A green tree can be burned, but it isn’t easy. The dry tree represents Israel without Jesus. It easily burns. The amazing thing is that Israel hasn’t been completely consumed after 2,000 years of “burning” (persecution). The burning bush is a picture of this.

The worst persecution will be endured during the Great Tribulation. Men will wish to die but will be denied their wish. (**Rev 6:15-17, Rev 9:6**).

Why are the Jews being persecuted?

God said a murder must be killed or the land would be polluted (Numbers 35:31-34).

The Israelites had agreed to bind themselves to God’s Law (Exodus 19:8).

They murdered the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:23, 4:10, 7:52).

God honors His word.

Men will be hiding in caves during the Tribulation for fear of the Lord (**Isaiah 2:17-22**).

Rejection of Jesus Christ leads to heartache, trouble, and difficulty.
