

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

February 23, 2022

John 19:16 - 18

**16** Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus away. **17** Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*). **18** There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

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Tonight we get to the crucifixion.

### Verse 16

*Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus away.*

\*Keeping in mind Jesus' physical condition at this point, His body was probably in shock. He had been scourged, thorns pushed into His head and His face beaten beyond recognition. Then He was told to carry His own heavy cross. How could He possibly do this? When He had difficulty, the soldiers called Simon the Cyrene to pick up the cross and carry it. (Luke 23:26)

*As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

Tina offered to show a picture on her phone of what Jesus might have looked like after the torture. Remember that this torture could have lasted from Jesus' arrest on Thursday evening into the night and morning before His walk on the Via Delorosa to Golgotha. How could a group of people be so inhumane to cause such suffering to an innocent man?

## Verse 17

*Carrying the cross by himself, he went to the place called Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha).*

Pastor Tom asked what images we got when we hear 'the place of the skull'. Responses included: place of death, bones strewn around, blood-stained ground.

\*We seem to be in a culture of death in our world today. We see skulls in fashion, decorations and in other odd places. Why would someone wear something that promotes death? Even more so, when we consider that 60 million babies have been aborted since Roe v. Wade, what does this say about our minds and hearts? Why would someone hate life so much as to buy into this culture of death? Why would someone pursue war and destruction?

## Verse 18

*There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them.*

To gain more understanding of this verse we referenced Luke 23:39-43

*39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

\*One of the thieves mocked Jesus, tempting Him to save himself and them. The other man reminded him that they both deserved the death penalty but Jesus had done nothing to deserve to die. Then this sinner asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came to His kingdom. (All through the Book of John, Jesus is trying to explain and demonstrate that He was the Son of God to the religious leaders. They didn't get it but this sinner facing death did make the connection).

\*Jesus' response to this man was encouraging...when you die you will be with me in heaven, today!

\*This is valid theology throughout the Gospels: When you die your soul goes to heaven IF you believe in Jesus.

As we teach in Bible2School:

C -we must confess our sins (admit we have a problem)

B - we need to believe in that Jesus died for our sins

A - we must ask Jesus into our hearts to live forever

\*When a person dies, the physical body goes into the ground/earth. But the soul leaves the body. So at the time of Jesus' death, when He said 'It is finished', His body descended into the depths of the earth for 3 days with Satan. At that point of death, God's plan of redemption was completed.

\*In Matthew 27: 50 - 53 we read

50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

\*Note that Jesus gave up (yielded) His life; no one took Jesus' life. And at that very moment the veil in the temple was torn in half from the top down. The fabric of the veil was 4 inches thick and took hundreds of men to hang it, but it only took the hand of God to rent it (rip it). This was very symbolic of the end of the separation of God and man. No longer was a priest needed to intercede inside the Holy of Holies. We can now go to God face to face because Jesus was sacrificed for our sins.

Pastor Tom noted another treasure of the Word in these verses...How the dead now rose out of their graves and were walking around in Jerusalem. And many people saw them!!! We can wonder how many people believed who Jesus was in those moments right after His death. What about the centurion guard at the cross: surely this was the Son of God.

In his excitement over the Word, Pastor Tom also warned us of the theology of the universalists: everyone will get to heaven.

He points out this analogy:

If a person is sick - the doctor says to do this or that -  
you do this and you get better.

But if you say, I don't believe the doctor -  
you don't do what is said and you do not get better/you die.

If we admit we are sinners, we confess and believe in Jesus -

We go to heaven

If we don't admit we are sinners, we don't confess and believe in Jesus -

We will not go to heaven.

Pastor Tom also reminded us that he knows just enough about the Scriptures to be dangerous! And we are so glad he does!!

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Good night to everyone!