

BIBLE READING DAY 46, WEDNESDAY: APRIL 13

Jesus Mocked and Delivered for Crucifixion

Matthew 27:27–30; John 19:4–16

The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and assembled the whole regiment before him. And they stripped off his garments and put a scarlet robe on him and braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, shouting, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on him, took the reed, and hit him on the head.

Then Pilate went out again and said to the crowd, "Behold, I am bringing him out to you so that you may know that I find him guilty of no crime."

Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the scarlet robe.

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Cost of Discipleship

"Behold, here is the man!" said Pilate.

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

"Take him and crucify him yourselves," said Pilate, "for I do not find him guilty of any crime."

"We have a law," answered the Jews, "and according to that law he should die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he became even more alarmed and went into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?"

But Jesus did not answer him. Pilate therefore said to him, "Aren't you going to speak to me? Don't you know that I have the authority to release you, and the authority to crucify you?"

"You would have no authority at all over me unless it had been given to you from above," replied Jesus. "Therefore, he who handed me over to you is guilty of the greater sin."

Hearing this, Pilate renewed his efforts to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar! Everyone who sets himself up as a king proclaims treason against Caesar."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). Now it was the Preparation Day of Passover, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold, your king!"

"Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" they shouted.

"Shall I crucify your king?" asked Pilate.

"We have no king but Caesar," answered the chief priests.

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Judas's Remorse and Death

Matthew 27:3–10

When Judas, who betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was filled with remorse and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders and said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood!"

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That is your affair."

Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, Judas left and went away and hanged himself. Then the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is unlawful to put this in the temple treasury, as this is the price of blood."

And when they had consulted together, they used the money to buy the potter's field for a burial place for strangers. Therefore, that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was said by the prophet Jeremiah,

And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price was set by some of the sons of Israel, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

Judas was not an obvious betrayer. He was entrusted with the money of the disciples and seemed genuinely interested in the poor.

Even though God has foreknowledge, betrayal is not of God. Jesus knew ahead of time what Judas would do yet chose him anyway. God knows what you are going through

If God can use the greatest betrayal in history and turn it into the greatest victory, ask God to give healing and purpose in your hurt. Trust that God will take your grief and bring glory to Himself in spite of it all.

Timothy C. McKeown,
The Gospel of John, One Day at a Time

Jesus Led to Calvary

Matthew 27:31–32; Luke 23:27–32

And after they had mocked Jesus, the soldiers stripped the robe from him and put his own garments on him and led him away to crucify him. And he went out bearing his cross. And as they went their way, they came upon a man of Cyrene named Simon, and they compelled him to carry Jesus's cross.

And there followed him a great crowd of people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the childless, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' For if this is what they do when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER
------------	----------------	-----------------	--------	--------------	--------	------------------	--------	------	--------	--------	--------	------	--------	-----------------

DEVOTIONAL DAY 46 (WEDNESDAY APRIL 13)

The Passion of the Christ

Based on Matthew 27:3-10, 27-32; Luke 23:27-32; John 19:4-16

Sin was great for the events surrounding the death of Jesus. Judas's greed left a bloody trail that not only included Jesus, but also himself by his own hand. What brought this remorse upon him?

Was it seeing the beaten and chastised Jesus? Was it knowing that the trust he had (he oversaw the money for the group) had been obliterated? Was it hearing the sentence of death for His teacher who loved him?

Judas could not bear the weight of his guilt and his part in the death of Jesus.

The priests and crowd in Jerusalem on the other hand were waiting for the death of Jesus with glee. They rejected His authority over them ("*We have no king but Caesar*"). They wished death on Him ("*Crucify Him!*"). They mocked Him in His dire state ("*Bring yourself down from that cross.*")

Those who were not involved in the sins of that day wailed and lamented for Him. They see Jesus wrongly sentenced to die carrying His cross.

I cannot imagine how great the sorrow was for Jesus' death, or the weight of guilt Judas faced, or how it can be possible for the priests, teachers of the God's Word, to welcome His Son's death?

Indeed, the sin was great on that day. However, it would be in its last hours as the cross would be sins' undoing. The wrath of God will be fulfilled. Sin will lose its power. Salvation will now be possible.

Lord, we look at this day and wonder how Your Son who knew no sin could suffer greatly than anyone ever. We are in awe that Jesus went through all of this so that He could free us. Lord, sin was great this day, but it would not win the day! Jesus conquered sin! Even though it killed Him, He did not stay dead! He lives sitting at Your right hand as a conqueror! Lord, thank You for the salvation that happened on this day. Amen.

--By Robert "Pastor Bud" Olmstead

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs

A

C

T

S