

The Cross was the Plan of God

John 19: 23-37

- The cross was the pinnacle of the plan of God. The culmination of history. The central theme in the story of redemption. There is a reason we sing about the cross, preach about the cross, remind ourselves of the cross through visual images and the rest.
- It's through Jesus dying on the cross that the chasm between sinful man and righteous God was bridged. It was through the cross that we see the perfect Son of God suffer and experience human pain in the worst ways imaginable. It was through the cross that we see the lengths that God the Father is willing to go to give up His only Son so that you and I might have eternal life.
- Thank God for the cross.
- As we read through the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection it's interesting to see how unprepared the disciples were for this moment.
- Jesus had given them many signs. There was growing pressure from authorities against those who were followers of Jesus. He had pointed to what would come time and time again. Jesus came as the long-anticipated Messiah. He would be the fulfillment of hundreds of years worth of prophecy concerning this.
- Of course, things are always clearer in retrospect. One thing we know about the cross and the plan of God....

Main Point: There was nothing random about Jesus dying on the cross of Calvary.

- Think about how and why John was led by the Holy Spirit to write this Gospel account. He started way back in the beginning. He went all the way through Jesus' life, ministry,

and teachings. But in John 21 he said the world could not contain all the books that could be written about Jesus' life and ministry.

- If that is true just for Jesus' 33 or so years here on Earth, how even truer that is for the Word of God as a whole. The complexity and interconnectedness of this great story is something we could spend the rest of our lives mining the depths of, and we would never reach the bottom.
- The cross has always been the plan of God.

I. The humiliation Jesus endured

- a. There is so much about the story of Jesus and the cross that involves His utter humiliation. From being spat upon to being screamed at by bystanders. He was whipped and given a crown of thorns.
- b. He was mocked and persecuted. He was told – If you really are the Son of God then come down from the cross.
- c. He was placed between two common thieves. The Son of God would die next to common criminals. One who recognized his unworthiness in the presence of the Savior and the other who neglected that.
- d. VERSE 24 They cast lots for Jesus' tunic. They didn't realize it at the time, but their doing so was a fulfillment of OT scripture in Psalm 22. It was specifically mentioned that they would cast lots for His clothes.
- e. Let that be of note today to those who make a mockery of the Lord Jesus. You may think you have some sort of Power because you choose to humiliate the Lord, but this is God's world. It is God's plan. He will have the final say.

- f. From those that were casting lots at the cross to those who were mocking Jesus and the Lord's Supper at the Olympics – scripture tells us that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- g. Here's the amazing thing – Jesus' response to those who mocked Him – Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. If they would have mocked Muhammad, Muslims all over the world would have declared a holy war against France, but Jesus offers forgiveness, even to those who mock and scorn Him.

II. The death Jesus suffered

- a. It's such a heart wrenching thing to read of what Jesus went through on the cross for you and for me.
- b. He is 100% divine, but while He was here on Earth, He was also 100% human. There were people that dearly loved Jesus watching and grieving as Jesus suffered and died a cruel death on the cross.
- c. Jesus looked down from the cross and could see His grieving mother. No doubt, she was worried and concerned and overwhelmed at the thought of seeing her son suffer and die. He said, "Woman, behold your Son."
- d. In John 2, Mary asks Jesus to take care of the wine at the wedding, and we see Jesus' first recorded miracle here. But He told His mother then that His time had not yet come. Well...Now His time had come. This is what He came here to do.
- e. He tells John to look after His mother.
- f. This is a God who knows and cares about the pain and difficulty you face. He has been through every bit of pain and grief that you could possibly imagine. Even in His death, we see that this was the plan of God.

- g. Psalm 22 is referenced here when Jesus says, “I thirst.” There are allusions” to Jesus’ “It is finished” statement in Daniel 9 and Zechariah 11.

III. The piercing of Jesus' side

- a. This moment is again another moment in the story of the crucifixion that is spoken of in scripture.
- b. Every turn, every step, every move was directed by the Lord.
- c. Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12 and Psalm 34:20 all point to Jesus dying on the cross and not one of His bones being broken. They always broke the bones of those being crucified. It hurried up the process of suffocation. But with Jesus – He died when He said it was time.
- d. Psalm 22, Zechariah 12, and Revelation 1 all mention his side being pierced.
- e. John wrote these things so that you may believe.
- f. Do you trust Him. Does our trust grow in the Lord as we read this? Are you thankful for all the Lord did for you on the cross? Will you respond and be willing to pick up your cross and follow Him?