

## Episode #2-25 – John 19 Part 3-Offense of the Cross

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We are considering the Lord's crucifixion. The Lord carried His cross to the place Golgotha. Others were crucified with Him. A title was put over His head. The chief priests objected to it, but Pilate refused to change it. The soldiers gambled for His undergarment. Now, we continue to consider these momentous events at the cross.

III. John 19:25-30. Words from the cross.

- A. V.25. The Lord had many faithful women followers. We have not seen His mother since chapter 2, the first time we see her with Him in John. It makes sense that she might have joined Him at the feast. John minimizes information about her, since he is focusing on Christ as God. Her sister Mary the wife of Cleophas is also here (the name of the Lord's mother was actually Miriam, so these two sisters were Miriam and Mary, not both Marys). Mary Magdalene is also here. John's mother was here, as we can learn from Matthew 27:56, but he does not mention her.
- B. V.26. The Lord was her oldest Son, and so traditionally was in charge of caring for her with Joseph dead. Since He is dying, He must pass the care of her off to someone else. He does not give her to her the second oldest, as might traditionally have been done, for his brothers did not believe in Him. Instead, He turns to John. "Woman" sounds harsh in English, but in Aramaic is a term of endearment (chapter 2.)
- C. V.27. John was faithful to this command. This was a shame to His brothers that He chose John instead of them, but happily after His resurrection God changed His brothers, and they became believers in Him.
- D. V.28. In every action He has performed this night, the Lord has been fulfilling all Scripture. There is one thing left to fulfill: Psalm 69:21.
- E. V.29. Sour wine or vinegar was given to the victims of the cross as a cruel kindness. This kept them alive, so they would not die of thirst too quickly. This gives us an idea of how high in the air He was on the cross, for hyssop is between 18-24 inches long.
- F. V.30. His work on the cross was finished. He did not die from the cross, but rather dismissed His Own spirit! How could God die? Because He said so! His words are always true.

IV. The Offense of the Cross.

- A. Suppose you were being crucified. What would happen? You would carry your own crosspiece. Ridiculed along the way. Stripped of your clothes. Nails in hands and feet. Have to pull up to take a breath. High in the air to be visible. Acts 5:30. (Depended on availability of wood.) Like a billboard along the highway. Naked on the cross. John 19:23, tunic = Greek *chiton*, a garment worn next to the body. Isolated and publicly humiliated! Helpless against birds. No shelter from sun or storm. Vinegar given for thirst. Worst is none of this is killing you. Eventually you die of exposure.
- B. What is the message of the cross? It appeals to human pride to think God died for us. The kind of death stills our pride, however. Galatians 5:11. The thought that we are worthy of THAT kind of death is what is offensive.
- C. But a greater message for the believer: God's love. John 3:16. Christ died on our behalf. We cannot depend on ourselves for salvation! The cross teaches us we can

never be good enough. Belief is the only way to be accepted in God's sight. The result of believing is righteousness and blamelessness. Don't wait another minute if you have never believed. Make sure you are forgiven!

V. Conclusion: The Lord was not killed on the cross: He laid down His life for us. He did not just die for us, He died on a cross. His death shows the kind of death we deserved: alone, humiliated, as a rebel against God. Yet, praise God, it also shows the great love He has for us. John's appeal to us is this: will we believe? Let us do so!