

He Endured the Cross

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I. Introduction. Text: John 19:4-42.

II. Responses of the leaders.

A. Pilate was anxious to release Jesus and he wanted to release Jesus, but there was too much cost to him to do so.

B. The Jewish leadership hated Jesus, and they manipulate Pilate into acting on Jesus.

C. Pilate tries to press Jesus with his power, but Jesus counters by saying that the only power he has is from God himself.

D. Those that mistreat us could have no power unless it came to us from above—God is in charge of human life.

E. The Jews aware of the Scriptures had the greater sin than Pilate did.

F. All the hypocrisy and pretense of mankind is being displayed and forced out into the open.

G. The end of the leaders.

1. Pilate ultimately commits suicide.

2. The Jewish leadership is revealed as hypocrites, God-deniers, and on the side of the Romans.

III. The Crucifixion.

A. At the place of the skull, God intends to communicate that this is where God intends to deal with death.

B. By the writing on the cross in three languages, God shows that He was very interested in letting the whole world know who Jesus is.

C. The parting of the garments and the piercing of Jesus were all fulfilled prophecies. (Psalm 27)

D. What Jesus said on the cross.

1. Jesus' word to His mother, giving John protection of her.

a. Mary already had other sons to protect her.

b. What John could give that the other brothers could not was compassion as a believer.

2. Jesus' expression of thirst—the worst form of human pain.

a. This was said to fulfill Scripture.

b. If not to fulfill prophecy the Lord would have probably stayed silent in regards to His anguish.

3. Jesus' words, "It is finished."

a. This is a victorious statement.

b. There is relief in that the terrible ordeal is finished.

c. There is also pride in the work finished—the devil is defeated.

E. John wants us to understand the impossibility of breaking the Scriptures.

F. Two secret disciples did what they would not during Jesus' life and openly acknowledged Him.

G. Three remarkable symbols about the burial of Jesus.

1. It was in a garden. Sin began in a garden—the Garden of Eve.

2. It was in a tomb. When sin came, death came.

3. It was near the cross. In our brokenness, the place of resurrection is just around the corner if you walk with God.

Application questions:

1. How is the fulfillment of God's promises variously portrayed in John's presentation of the crucifixion?

2. What does Jesus' response to Pilate teach us about God's control and our response to evil that is out of our control?

3. What might the symbols of Jesus' burial suggest about our restoration to God?
