**March 3, 2021**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

588 S.E. 7th Street, Webster, FL 33597; (352) 568-5570

**Bishop James Hall, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**“JESUS’ CRUXIFICITION”**

**John 19:16-42**

***John 19:18, "Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst."***

***John 19:19, "And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS."***

***John 19:20, "This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin."***

In the previous lesson, we finished with them carrying Him to Golgatha and crucifying Him between two common thieves. Pilate handed him over to be crucified. Crucifixion was a horrific form of execution that the Romans had perfected. It was typical for the condemned to carry the crossbar for his own cross, as Jesus was made to do. The place of crucifixion was called Place of the Skull, which meant Golgotha in Aramaic. The Latin translation is Calvaria, from which we get the English rendering Calvary. There they crucified him between two others, criminals according to Luke. Pilate wrote the name on the cross, because Pilate knew in his own heart that Jesus was who He said He was. Pilate wanted to make sure that whoever read this title could understand. In fact, this hill of Golgatha is just outside of the wall on a busy road leading out of Jerusalem. Scriptures were fulfilled in every detail of this crucifixion.

***John 19:21, "Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am the King of the Jews."***

***John 19:22, "Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."***

***John 19:23, "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."***

***John 19:24, "They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."***

Pilate had a sign hung on Jesus’s cross that said, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek, so that everyone could read it. Thus, the sign displayed the charge for which he was put to death. But it made the chief priests furious. Pilate had made the sign read as a title, a fact. The Jewish leaders wanted it to clearly indicate that this was merely Jesus’s claim. These chief priests knew that, even in death, this would make a strong statement to the people and they wanted this sign done away with. As we said before, Pilate would not take it off. These soldiers had no idea that they were fulfilling prophecy. This tells me that God can use people who are not even saved to carry out His purposes. But Pilate rebuffed them, saying, What I have written, I have written. He meant for the sign to sting the Jews. But, in his sovereignty, God meant it to declare to the world the truth about his Son. As Jesus writhed in agony above them, the soldiers pitilessly divided his clothes among them and gambled to see which of them would get to keep his tunic. John tells us that this too fulfilled Scripture, quoting Psalm 22:18.

***Psalm 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.***

***John 19:25, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene."***

***John 19:26, "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!"***

***John 19:27, "Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home."***

Standing by the cross were four women who had followed Jesus, including his mother Mary. These women seem to be near the cross. The same group of women are mentioned in Matthew 27:56 and in Mark 15:40. From the Scripture in Matthew and Mark, it appears that the mother's sister is wife of Cleophas. It really doesn't matter if there were 3 or 4. It is just interesting to note that the sister of Mary (the mother of Jesus) was there with her. Jesus saw the disciple he loved that is, John the son of Zebedee, the author of the Gospel, and told his mother that John was now her son, and he told John that Mary was now his mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. Even as he hung dying on a cross, then, Jesus fulfilled his obligation to care for his widowed mother. Jesus entrusted the well-being of his mother to John rather than to one of her biological sons because they had not yet believed in him. Spiritual relationships are to take precedence over biological and physical relationships in spiritual matters.

***Matthew 12:46-50***

***46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.***

***47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.***

***48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?***

***49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!***

***50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.***

***John 19:28, "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst."***

***John 19:29, "Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth."***

***John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."***

John was more than just a disciple of Jesus. He was a trusted and much loved friend. The greatest honor Jesus could have paid anyone was to have entrusted His mother to him. John accepts this responsibility without hesitation. Mary then lives with John in his home as his mother. Jesus gave His mother to his closest and dearest friend, John. This is speaking of Psalms 69:21. Jesus had taken care of everything to be done. He knew that his mission was complete, that everything was now finished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, that he had endured the wrath of God and fully atoned for the sins of the world. Now to fulfill a Scripture He says, I thirst.

***Psalm 69:21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.***

This, as we said before, was to fulfill the Scriptures. This hyssop, or reed as it is called in the other gospels, grows to 4 or 5 feet and would easily reach Jesus' mouth. This vinegar possibly was here for the soldiers and those crucified to dull their senses. In the next verse, we will see exactly why this was done here. So they put a sponge full of sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it up to his mouth. Hyssop was the very plant used to brush lamb’s blood on the doorposts during the Passover.

***Exodus 12:21-23***

***21 Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out and take you a lamb according to your families, and kill the passover.***

***22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.***

***23 For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.***

As the apostle Paul says, “Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:7). Then Jesus declared, It is finished. His work of atonement for sin was done. The demands of the law had been met. The debt for sin had been paid in full. Jesus had proclaimed, “No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down on my own”. Here the truth of that claim was verified: Bowing his head, he gave up his spirit. Jesus was not robbed of his life; he voluntarily laid it down. “No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.” What was finished? The work on the cross: six hours of suffering. The Scriptures had now been fulfilled. In Luke 23:46, we learn that Jesus commanded His Spirit to leave His body and go to the Father. At this moment, nothing was left on the cross, but the empty shell of a body.

***Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.”***

***John 19:31, "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken a way."***

***John 19:32, "Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him."***

***John 19:33, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:"***

It was very important that the legs of the Lamb of God not be broken. This sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread was also associated with the Passover celebration. For Jesus to be the Passover Lamb, He must be dead before 6 p.m. He was dead at 3 p.m. He hung on the cross six hours from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. He had to be entombed before 6 p.m. when sabbath started. It was a very serious offense to work on sabbath. This death at 3 p.m. gave time for them to go and ask His body and bury it in the cave. It sometimes took crucifixion victims days to die. Normally, then, the Romans would have left the men on the crosses. But since it was the preparation day for the Passover, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath. Moreover, for a cursed man to remain hanging on a tree overnight would defile the land. So, they requested that Pilate have the men’s legs broken so that they would die and could be buried. Victims hanging on a cross had to put weight on their legs in order to lift themselves to breathe. Without the use of their legs, they would die of asphyxiation.

***John 19:34, "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."***

***John 19:35, "And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe."***

***John 19:36, "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."***

***John 19:37, "And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."***

We read in I John 5:6, "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." Read on through verse 8 to get a more detailed explanation. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Jesus shed His blood for our sin. Therefore, a soldier pierced his side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out. This indicated that his heart was no longer beating. In the early years of the church, a heresy arose claiming that Jesus was totally divine and only pretended to be human.

***1 John 4:1-2***

***1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.***

***2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:***

But John wants his readers to know that such talk is a complete lie. As sure as Jesus was fully God, he was fully human: he bled and died on a Roman cross. In fact, John himself was an eyewitness to this, and his testimony is true. All that happened, John tells us, was fulfillment of biblical prophecy. He quotes from Psalm 34:20 and Zechariah 12:10, proving it was no accident that Jesus was pierced rather than having his legs broken. Our sovereign God was fulfilling his Word.

***Psalm 34:20 “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”***

***Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”***

***John 19:38, "And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus."***

***John 19:39, "And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight."***

***John 19:40, "Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury."***

***John 19:41, "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid."***

***John 19:42, "There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand."***

Joseph of Arimathaea had a tomb which had not been previously used. He was a secret disciple of Jesus because he feared the Jews. The other Gospels inform us that he was wealthy and a prominent member of the Jewish Sanhedrin. In spite of his fears, he boldly went forward to ask Pilate if he could bury Jesus’s body. Joining Joseph was Nicodemus, another secret disciple who had previously spoken with Jesus at night. He also came into the light to assist Joseph with his task. They prepared the body and laid it in a new tomb in a garden near the place of his crucifixion. No one had yet been placed in the tomb. This is a very significant detail because later, when Jesus’s body was gone, no one was able to point to any bones in the tomb to claim them as Jesus’s remains. His was the first corpse to lie there. Pilate surely was even more convinced of who Jesus was after the earthquake and the three hours of darkness on the land. He was very cooperative with Joseph. Joseph had to get the body entombed before 6 p.m. when sabbath started. Nicodemus believed, but was a fearful man. He brought the perfume for the burial. Jesus was not embalmed. Jews were never embalmed. They were buried immediately. Embalming was an Egyptian custom. The Romans cremated, the Egyptians embalmed, and the Jews wrapped in linen with perfumes. The sepulchre was actually at the foot of the hill where Jesus was crucified, so it would be no problem to quickly entomb Jesus' body here. The Jewish people spent what they could afford to have a big funeral, so this expensive tomb hewn out in the side of the mountain.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who was crucified with Jesus?
2. What was the title Pilate put on the cross?
3. What languages was it written in?
4. Who read the message on the cross?
5. Who complained to Pilate about the title?
6. What did they want him to change it to?
7. Did Pilate do what the Jews asked?
8. What happened to Jesus' garments?
9. Why did they not tear the robe?
10. How did they decide who got the robe?
11. Who were the women standing by the cross?
12. Who did Jesus give His mother to?
13. When Jesus knew all was fulfilled, what did He say?
14. What was put to Jesus' mouth?
15. How long did Jesus hang on the cross?
16. What was left on the cross?
17. Why did the Jews want Pilate to have the prisoners' legs broken?
18. Why did they not break Jesus' legs?
19. What did one of the soldiers do with a spear?
20. Who was the disciple of Jesus who asked for His body?
21. Who brought 100 lbs. of myrrh and aloes to use in the entombment?
22. Who cremates their dead?
23. Who embalms their dead?
24. Who wrapped their dead in linen?
25. Where was Jesus laid?