

Sermon Series: “Christ at the Crossroads”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/20/2005

Title: “Christ at the Crossroads of Pain”

Text: Matthew 26 & 27

Theme: As pain came into our world as a result of sin, Jesus went to the cross for us to bear pain in all of its forms, delivering us from the penalty of sin and giving us a hope that even our moments of pain are redeemed by Him.

***Suffering the ill-will/malice of others* (Print and read Matthew 26: 1-13)**

- Through conspiracy— being confronted by the political and scheming nature of mankind down through the ages
 1. *The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them; but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming. Ps. 37: 12-13*
- Through disapproval — even the “righteous” among us can tear down and destroy when caught up in their own agenda
- Our response
- Repenting when we have been used by Satan to tear others down
- Forgiving when we are on the receiving end
- Showing no injustice to others
- *And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6: 8*

***Suffering betrayal* (Print and read Matthew 26: 14-25)**

- One of the deepest hurts is to be betrayed by one you trusted
- **Ills.: Michael Card song**
- Jesus suffered faithfully for us even when he knew we would not be faithful to Him
- *For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5: 7-8*

***Suffering indifference* (Print and read Matthew 26: 31-46)**

- Our spirit is crushed when others just don’t seem to care
- **Ills.: Turning their backs on others**
- When all the world, even Jesus’ closest disciples, just didn’t care Jesus turned to his Heavenly Father who always did
- *But He kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously. . .the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. 1Peter 2: 23,25*
- When our despair grows great in the sea of life’s loneliness, we can come to the Father who always receives us through Jesus

***Suffering injustice* (Print and read Matthew 26: 57-68)**

- We cry out, “That’s not fair!” (Corporate greed and high gas prices to neglect/abuse at home to unexpected, tragic death)
- **Ills.: Passion Scene of Jesus before Jewish Sanhedrin**
- Was it fair what Jesus went through? Why was there no one to stand up for the “truly innocent?”
- Jesus suffered the greatest injustice before men so we will never be without justice before the Father
- *Who will accuse those whom God has chosen? God has approved of them. Who will condemn them? Christ has died, and more importantly, he was brought back to life. Christ has the highest position in heaven. Christ also intercedes for us. Rom 8: 33-34*

***Suffering humiliation* (Print and read Matthew 27: 24-32)**

- What has been your most embarrassing moment?
- **Ills.: The pie in the face**
- Jesus’ humiliation was part of our reconciliation
- *Although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil 2: 6-8*

***Suffering for sin and sinners* (Print and read Matthew 27: 33-44)**

- In a sea of sinners living out their extreme rebellion against him (soldiers and priest and robbers scorn)
- When you believe that you have committed a sin/act of rebellion too great, remember Jesus died for you
- *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save*

sinner, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Suffering unto death (Matthew 27: 45-50)

- Abandoned by all – even the Father — Jesus did not give up but completed his mission even to the point of death
- In the end Jesus was not finished by death but he finished off death's sting with his life

Ills.: Jesus of Nazareth film clip of the death

Matthew 26

¹When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, ²"You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion." ³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; ⁴and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him. ⁵But they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people." ⁶Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table. ⁸But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste? ⁹"For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. ¹¹"For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me. ¹²"For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. ¹³"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. ¹⁶From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus. ¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples." ' " ¹⁹The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. ²¹As they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." ²²Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. ²⁴"The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, "You have said *it* yourself."

³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' ³²"But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this *very* night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." ³⁵Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too. ³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." ³⁹And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." ⁴⁰And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. ⁴⁵Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶"Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

⁵⁷Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. ⁵⁸But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome. ⁵⁹Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. ⁶⁰They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, ⁶¹and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.' " ⁶²The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?"

⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; ⁶⁶what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!" ⁶⁷Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

Matthew 27

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." ²⁵And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!" ²⁶Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. ²⁸They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. ³¹After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. ³²As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.

³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, ³⁴they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. ³⁵And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. ³⁶And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. ³⁷And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, "this is Jesus the King of the Jews." ³⁸At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, ⁴²"He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. ⁴³"He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " ⁴⁴The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.

⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ⁴⁷And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. ⁴⁹But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.