

Portraits of Jesus' Passion  
Selected Readings from Scripture  
Good Friday 2024

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday knowing what was coming ... he had predicted his death several times trying to prepare his disciples ... he knew there was a conspiracy among the religious leaders to kill him (the courage of Jesus).

### **DEVOTION**

A woman offers Jesus her total devotion ... Jesus says she's preparing him for his burial and commends her... this is the last scene of righteous devotion until Jesus is resurrected.

### **BETRAYAL**

Judas is now ready to make his move to betray Jesus. Why? We're never told probably because we are called to identify with Judas as much as the rest of the disciples who deny and abandon Jesus. In reality, we have all betrayed our King!

### **SURRENDER**

We see Jesus in Gethsemane pleading with God for another way to save us. The "cup" Jesus is referring to is the "cup of God's wrath."

*Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, you who drained it to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.*

*Isaiah 51:17*

Q – How bad is our condition that the Son of God must be crucified to save us?

## **REJECTED**

Jesus stands before the Sanhedrin in a sham trial conducted by the very men who were supposed to guard justice and righteousness in the covenant community.

Being religious, even reading the Scriptures, is no guarantee we will not miss Jesus. We are all operating with mental categories that need to be aligned with the reality of King Jesus. This is one of the gifts of the covenant community, but still there is no guarantee (group think).

## **TRUE KING**

Jesus stands before Pilate, who has the authority and power of the Roman Empire with him. Pilate literally has the power of life and death in his hands.

Political power rarely, if ever, recognizes the True King. Mostly politicians want to do what is expedient rather than what is right. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, but he was just lazy or afraid of the crowds.

## **MOCKED**

The Roman soldiers mock our Savior and our King because this is the way the world understands power and authority. No true King would ever allow themselves to be in such a place of weakness!

EX. Picture of ancient graffiti mocking Jesus crucifixion (probably 2 Century).

*“There is no greater cleavage between faith and unbelief than in their respective attitudes to the cross. Where faith sees glory, unbelief sees only disgrace. What was foolishness to the Greeks, and continues to be to modern intellectuals who trust their own wisdom, is nevertheless the wisdom of God.*

*And what remains a stumbling block to those who trust in their own righteousness, like the Jews of the first century, proves to be the saving power of God.” – John Stott, The Cross of Christ*

## CRUCIFIED

“It is finished” (John 19:30).

*Tetelestai = paid in full.*

Papyri receipts for taxes have been recovered with this same Greek word.

Q – What is the debt Jesus has paid for you and I? We all owe God our lives, because all of us are complicit in high treason against our Creator and King.

*“This is what the Sovereign Lord says, your God who defends his people: ‘See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again.’” Isaiah 51:22*

Jesus surrendered to the Father’s will to drink the cup of his wrath. Jesus is the one that staggered bearing our cross. Jesus is the one who was shamed and mocked for our rebellion and treason. Jesus was crucified and buried for our sake.

Let us reflect soberly on his great sacrifice for our sins. Let us receive with great thanksgiving his payment in full for our great debt. Let us offer ourselves in full devotion to him as our Savior and King.