

Series: John
Title: Behold the Man
Text: John 19: 1-5
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John 19: 5: Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man!

Beholding the Man, Christ Jesus, we behold THE MAN. He is the Man who is Perfect. He is the Man who God accepts and delights in. He is the Man--the one Man--who pleased God the Father by his obedience. He is the Man--the one Man, the only Man--by whose Righteousness, God accepts all who believe on him. We need THE MAN to send the Spirit of God and enable us to behold the Man in spirit, that we might bow in heart, and worship and praise him.

Subject: Behold the Man

Proposition: Christ Jesus is the Man--the one Man God looked to, and looks to now, whose person and works make God's elect perfect and accepted of God through faith by grace.

BEHOLD THE MAN WHO IS GOD

John 19: 6: When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him they cried out, saying., Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him. 7: The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. 8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; 9: :And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10: Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above:

This Man is no victim of the Pharisee's and the Romans. He is the Son of God, the Creator, who is in absolute sovereign control of everything taking place here. This was why the Pharisee's enmity raged to put him to death.

Behold the Man who is the Son of God. The law they refer to is the law that the Man gave them. God gave them the law that they claim to be so concerned to keep. But they are not concerned for the law because God said those who blaspheme God's name should be stoned, not crucified.

Yet, God decreed that when the Man came into the world, they would have no power to execute the death penalty. That is why they are seeking Pilot's judgment. The scepter has departed from Judah because Shiloh, the Man who is King, has come. God worked that to make the religious rulers of Judah to seek to have Christ crucified. The Man, who is standing there in their midst, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, predestinated this before the foundation of the world.

Also, we see God bring his will to pass in Pilot. Pilot did everything he could to release Christ to the Jews. Seven times Pilot declared he found no fault in him. But every effort Pilot made was thwarted. Why? Behold the Man who is God! He, together with God the Father,

determined before the world was made that he would be *crucified--not stoned*. He must be crucified because God ordained it.

Pilot and the Pharisees were guilty. They crucified the Prince of life with wicked hands. But it was determined before by God. He must be crucified because "cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree." The cross was to declare before all that Christ Jesus, the Man who is God, redeemed his people from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us under his own law.

He is God. His will shall be done. His will was *being* done when he was delivered to Pilot of the Jews and Pilot's heart was turned to crucify him. The Jews said he made himself the Son of God. That was not true. He has always been the Son of God. He made himself of a woman so he could be the child *born*. But he has always been the Son of God, the Son *given*.

Matthew 1:23: Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Philippians 2:6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Behold the Man who is God. What does this mean for sinners like us? It means everything that he accomplished for his people is eternal because he is the Man who is eternal God. To you who believe this Man has given "eternal life", "everlasting righteousness".

Also, it means he rules all things on behalf of his people. Everything that comes to pass in our lives is ruled for the good by the Man who is God. Our sins are our own. But the Man who is God rules our hearts to keep us repenting and believing on him. What comfort to know there is a Man in glory who is God ruling the universe just for me.

One more thing it means is that because he is Man and God, he is not only touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but he also has power to comfort us. Behold the Man who is God.

BEHOLD THE PERFECT MAN

The Lord Jesus Christ is the perfect Man. He is the only Man since the fall of Adam who is holy and righteous.

But this Man was before Adam. He is the image of God in whose image Adam was created. No, the Lord Jesus had not yet come into the world as the Man. Adam was first then Christ came forth as the last Adam. But the Man we behold here is the Lord from heaven. Though his body was not yet created in eternity, he is the Man who is the image of God, in whose image the first man, Adam, was made. He is Life. He was Adam's life. He is every believer's life. He is THE MAN, the last Adam, the Lord from heaven who is a quickening Spirit, both God and Man.

1 Corinthians 15:45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46: Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual: 47: The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven.

His body was not created. Yet, in the garden, he is the Man, the Seed of woman, who was promised in the garden.

Genesis 3: 15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Revelation 12:13: And when the dragon [the devil] saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man.

Behold the one Man who God the Father has always looked to in whom he accepts his chosen people as holy and righteous in the Beloved! He is the perfection which no man among all of fallen, sinful humanity could attain. He is the Man in whom sinners must be found if we would be accepted of God.

Now, let's behold the Man in his perfection. Let's see him in his holy, sinless, righteous perfection. He was holy in the womb. He was perfect throughout his life. He was perfect on the cross. But we see his perfection right here in our text as he bore the enmity of man against him. In verses 1-3, Pilot had him scourged. The soldiers pressed a crown of thorns into his head. They put a worn out old purple robe on him and bowed in mockery.

Is there anyone of us who could have borne that without sin? None but THE Man could have endured this shame and yet be without one sin. No man but the Man was perfectly willing to obey God the Father unto the death of the cross. His willingness was from perfect love to the Father and perfect love to the children the Father gave to him to save. Christ is the one Man who willingly obeyed God the Father in everything, even in these unimaginable sufferings, unto the death of the cross. He was moved by his love for God and his people to condescend to be made the least that he might save his people from our sins. He said, "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Is 50: 6). He bore it all in sinless perfection. Behold the Man who is God; behold the Perfect Man.

BEHOLD THE SIN-BEARING, CURSE BEARING MAN

John 19: 1: Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *him*. 2: And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put *it* on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3: And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

We behold in these physical things which Christ bore at the hands of men, greater spiritual things he bore from God. What men were doing here was unjust. He is innocent. But what he bore from God was just because "he made him sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor 5: 21). So in these physical things he bore at the hands of men, his people behold something of our sin which he bore. And we behold something of the curse Christ bore for his people at the hands of God's wrath and justice.

Behold our sin and curse in the scourging, "*Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.*" Scourging was almost as cruel as the crucifixion; often men died of scourging. The method was a whip or a rod. Sometimes the Roman's used a whip of rawhide with bone fragments in it, sometimes they used a rod. They usually stripped a man and stretched him out on a rack. When the whip came across a man's back, it left furrows in his flesh like a plow. Christ is fulfilling the scripture.

Psalms 129:3: The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.

In this, we see the sin of each elect child for whom Christ died. The Pharisees and scribes and Pilot and the Roman soldiers have the same sinful nature and are committing the same sins as those Christ saves.

Jeremiah 17: 9: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

Romans 8: 7: The carnal mind is enmity against God.

Romans 3: 15-18: Their feet are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace they have not known; there is no fear of God before their eyes.

Their hatred is our sinful nature. It was our Jew and Gentile fathers. Whether we be Jew or Gentile, our fathers did this. If we say we would not have done as our fathers, we are admitting we are our father's children. We have the same sinful nature as our fathers before us even as the sin we see in these men. (Mt 23: 30-31).

But behold the Man who is the Sin-bearer, the curse-bearer. These physical scourging's were painful to him but the scourging of divine justice was far greater. This was physical but God's scourging was a whip in his very soul. None can enter into what that suffering was like for the Lord Jesus. Pilot had him scourged unjustly. But by making him sin for his people, God the Father scourged him justly.

Behold the curse-bearing Man in the crown of thorns, "*And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head*". When Adam sinned, God pronounced the curse, declaring, "cursed is the ground for thy sake... thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee" (Genesis 3:17, 18). Behold the Man who came to redeem his people from the curse by being made a curse for us, crowned with thorns as he was with the curse he bore for us.

Behold the sin-bearing Man in the robe, "*and they put on him a purple robe*" then mocked him. Matthew says it was a scarlet robe. God calls our sins scarlet. Our sins are red like deep crimson-purple blood.

Isaiah 1:18: Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Behold the Man who knew no sin put on the sins of God's elect like a purple, scarlet robe. Our lawlessness, our transgressions, our injustice, our rebellion, our many, many offenses, he bore. He bore all the sin of his people in his own body on the tree like a purple, scarlet robe, that he might put his snow-white robe of righteousness on those who believe on him! He bore the curse and satisfied justice for his people. Behold the sin-bearing Man who bore away the sins of his people, who is the Righteousness of his people and believe on him now!

BEHOLD THE MAN WHO IS KING

They mocked him, saying in verse 3, "*Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.*" But he is indeed the King of the true Jews. Verse 14, "*Behold your King.*" Behold thy King risen above, with all power, reigning over all and just for you who are his!

Romans 5: 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord [the Man who is King.]

AW Pink said, "Here then is the Gospel of our salvation: the Savior was scourged, that we might go free; He was crowned with thorns, that we might be crowned with blessing and glory; He was clothed with a robe of contempt, that we might receive the robe of righteousness; He was rejected as king, that we might be made kings and priests unto God."

BEHOLD THE MAN WHO IS SALVATION

The Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God is salvation to all who trust him. Simply through faith in the Lord Jesus, simply by casting all your care on him, simply trusting that he careth for you, God imputes perfection to his people. Our Father imputes the righteousness of Christ to those who believe on his Son. In Christ, the sanctified believer is perfected forever--complete in him--accepted of God in the Beloved!

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, THE MAN Christ Jesus;

Believer, when you suffer in this life it is to make you behold the Man. He was scourged and chastened in fierce fury of God's wraths, so that God says to his children, "Fury is not in me" toward my people (Is 27: 4). What then is this painful, sorrowful providence that you suffer? What is this spiritual heartache you have in your new man? It is God the Father loving you enough to chasten you so that you will not be condemned with this evil world.

Hebrews 12:6 whom the Lord LOVETH he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

1 Corinthians 11: 32: But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Our Father will not scourge and chasten us as he did his Son, the Man. We do not have to fear the overflowing scourge. Here is why our chastens is light compared to Christ's:

Isaiah 53:5...the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

But it is called scourging because it is painful. Still, never forget it is the love of our heavenly Father. Every single child he loves and receives, he scourges, no exceptions. But after each chastening, God always yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness in his child. How so? He turns us again to behold the Man. By each chastening trial, God makes us behold the Man who is God. He makes us behold the Man who is the only perfect Man to whom God looks and is well-pleased--this is how God sees his people in his Son. He turns us to behold the Man who bore our sin and curse away. God keeps us beholding the Man who is our salvation in whom we are accepted of God. This is how God keeps us running after the Man, in faith and love unto the end (Heb 12: 1-3; Col 3: 1-11). God keeps chastening and preserving us so that one day soon he shall make us behold the Man face-to-face and make us to be perfectly conformed to his image and we shall praise him forever.

Amen!