

OUR SAVIOR'S PATH TO CALVARY
JOHN 19:1-6; LUKE 23:33-48

Introduction

With RESURRECTION SUNDAY being next week I want us to FOCUS on our SAVIOUR'S PATH TO CALVARY! Of course we know why the CRUCIFIXION on CALVARY had to happen!

In the BEGINNING OF TIME, GOD CREATED the HEAVENS and the EARTH and all that is in them— including MANKIND whom HE CREATED IN HIS OWN IMAGE and AFTER HIS OWN LIKENESS! MAN was placed in the PARADISE of the GARDEN OF EDEN and was given ONE COMMAND to OBEY and was told what the consequence of DISOBEYING that ONE COMMAND was! DEATH!

After EVE was DECEIVED by the SERPENT and DISOBEYED the LORD, ADAM willfully SINNED in DISOBEYING the LORD along with her! And so SIN entered the world and DEATH by SIN and the need for a PLAN to counter the EFFECTS OF SIN began.

SCRIPTURE reveals that GOD HAS ONE SINGLE PLAN OF REDEMPTION THAT IS FOUND AND PROVIDED FOR IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST. It was a PLAN that was necessary both to VINDICATE HOLY GOD and to REDEEM FALLEN MAN by PAYING HIS SIN DEBT!

It was a PLAN that was put into place even BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN! THAT PLAN WAS AND IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST—HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH FOR MAN'S SIN, HIS BURIAL, and HIS RESURRECTION for mankind!

FALLEN MANKIND has a hard time with the NEED for the GOSPEL! Men have continually COMPLAINED of GOD being UNFAIR and have tried to FIND FAULT WITH GOD and have even SECOND-GUESSED GOD...*"If I was GOD I would have done thus and so!"* Well, you are not GOD! And GOD'S PLAN is PERFECT! So there is that! And here is what HE says about the matter...

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Isaiah 55:6-9—*"6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, Call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts: And let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, And my thoughts than your thoughts."*

GOD'S ONLY WAY for us to get back to HIM is HIS PROVISION OF THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST! From GOD'S PROMISE of the SEED OF A WOMAN in *Genesis 3:15* in the GARDEN OF EDEN, to the BIRTH of MESSIAH in BETHLEHEM, and eventually to HIS DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION seemed like a very long period of time for REDEMPTION to be accomplished. But GOD'S PROMISE came to fruition in HIS TIME!

Galatians 4:4-5—*"4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

In the days leading up to our SAVIOUR being CRUCIFIED on the CROSS OF CALVARY, JOHN'S GOSPEL says in *chapter 12:12-16*, that JESUS came riding into JERUSALEM on a young donkey.

He had caused quite a stir among both the PEOPLE and the CHIEF PRIESTS! Many people had come to see both JESUS and LAZARUS, whom JESUS had RAISED FROM THE DEAD after LAZARUS had been in the grave for four days. *John 12:9, 17-18*

John 12:10-11 say that the CHIEF PRIESTS were wanting to put both JESUS and LAZARUS to death, because what JESUS had done for LAZARUS had caused a lot of folks to BELIEVE JESUS was indeed the long-awaited MESSIAH!

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We read in *John 12:13*, as folks went out to meet JESUS, that folks *“Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”*

Then, in *John 12:23-32*, we read that JESUS revealed to ANDREW and PHILIP that what HE had come to earth for was about to come to pass and he said that HIS SOUL was troubled. Then HE prayed these words, *“FATHER, glorify thy name.”* In response, a voice from heaven said, *“I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”*

People standing by heard the voice. Some said it thundered while others said an angel spake to HIM. JESUS promptly told them that the voice came not because of HIM, but because of them! Then JESUS said these words, *John 12:31-33*—*“31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.”*

Shortly afterward, JESUS gathered with HIS DISCIPLES to eat HIS last PASSOVER meal with them before HIS DEATH. Then, in an act of HUMILITY and SERVANTHOOD, HE washed HIS DISCIPLES feet. HE revealed to HIS DISCIPLES that HE would be betrayed by one of them, and then SATAN entered JUDAS and JUDAS left.

JESUS then talked to the remaining DISCIPLES: In *John 13:34-35*, HE commanded them to love one another in the same way HE had loved them! In *John 13:36-38*, HE revealed that PETER would deny HIM three times. In *John 14:1-3*, HE told them not to be troubled and then revealed that HE was going to prepare a place for them and that HE would come again for them.

In *John 14:6*, JESUS then revealed that HE was and is THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE, and that the only way to get to the FATHER was THROUGH HIM!

In *John 14:16-16:33*—JESUS then spoke to them of other things but primarily about the COMFORTER, THE HOLY SPIRIT said HE would send to dwell in them.

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During the days leading up to HIS arrest, JESUS spoke of HIS DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION on several different occasions, but HIS DISCIPLES just didn't get it. *John 17* is a prayer that JESUS prayed for HIS APOSTLES as well as for all BELIEVERS of all time.

Then, *John 18* records that JESUS went with HIS DISCIPLES to the GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE and prayed. LUKE records that HE was in agony and that HE sweat as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. (*Luke 22:44*)

JUDAS then came with a band of armed men and officers from the CHIEF PRIESTS and PHARISEES to where JESUS was in the garden and betrayed HIM with a kiss. SIMON PETER drew his sword and smote the HIGH PRIEST'S servant's right ear off to which JESUS responded by rebuking PETER and then HE HEALED the servant's ear.

JESUS then was taken to the HIGH PRIEST'S house where he was first TRIED. There, PETER denied the LORD as the LORD had said he would. LUKE records in *Luke 22:61* that the LORD turned, and looked upon PETER. PETER went out, and wept bitterly.

JESUS was mocked, struck and BLASPHEMED by those who held HIM in custody in the first step of HIS trial. Then the LORD was led by them to be TRIED before the whole COUNCIL at daylight.

After HIS trial before the COUNCIL, JESUS then was brought before PILATE. (*The JEWS were required to get approval from the ROMAN authorities in order to put JESUS to death*)

PILATE, upon hearing that JESUS was a GALILAEAN then sent JESUS to HEROD, who questioned HIM and then mocked HIM and sent HIM back to PILATE which brings us to the place here in *John 19*.

READ *JOHN 19:1-6*

READ *LUKE 23:33-48*

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As I said earlier, I want us to **FOCUS** on **OUR SAVIOR'S PATH TO CALVARY** and **EXAMINE THAT PATH!**

I. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF HUMILITY!

Philippians 2:7-8—“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.”

“HE left the splendor of HEAVEN...knowing HIS destiny...”

Think about it: The very SON OF GOD, CREATOR GOD, KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS, condescended to dwell among SINFUL MAN and to willingly SUBMIT HIMSELF to great CONTRADICTION, great ABUSE and so great a SUFFERING and DEATH that HE DID NOT DESERVE so that he could give HIS LIFE a RANSOM for MANKIND'S SIN! That took GREAT HUMILITY!

Matthew 11:28-30—“28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Mark 10:45—“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

II. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF TEMPERANCE!

(i.e. SELF-CONTROL) (*Luke 23:35, 39*)

JESUS, GOD IN THE FLESH, showed great TEMPERANCE or SELF-CONTROL as HE lived here among SINFUL MEN!

1 Peter 2:22-23— “22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:”

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III. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF SUFFERING!

Isaiah 53:4-7—“4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, And carried our sorrows: Yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; And with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, Yet he opened not his mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, So he openeth not his mouth.”

JESUS endured horrendous PHYSICAL PAIN, EMOTIONAL TORTURE, and SPIRITUAL AGONY for each of us!

In Biblical times, the **ROMANS** used **CRUCIFIXION** as a way to **EMBARRASS, TORTURE, and EXECUTE CRIMINALS, NON-CITIZENS, and ANYONE WHO THREATENED ROMAN RULE. This method of DEATH was considered the VILEST and MOST HUMILIATING and was RESERVED FOR THE LOWEST OF SOCIETY.**

With this in mind, we can gain a deeper understanding of **JESUS' SUFFERING** by perhaps **ONE OF THE CRUELEST**, if not **THE CRUELEST FORMS OF EXECUTION** of all times!

IV. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF LOVE!

Luke 23:34; 42-43

Even in the midst of **HIS SUFFERING, HE** took time to **LOVE!**

John 15:13—“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

Romans 5:6-10

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V. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF PERFECTION!

Over and over the **BIBLE** tells us of the **SINLESSNESS** of the **SON OF GOD!**

John 8:46—“Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?”

JUDAS ISCARIOT said in *Matthew 27:4*—“I have sinned in that I have **betrayed the innocent blood.**”

PILATE'S wife, being troubled by a dream she had, said to her husband, *Matt. 27:19*—“Have thou nothing to do with that **just man**”

PILATE himself declared three times that he found no fault in **HIM** in *John 18:38; 19:4, 6* and also said in *Luke 23:14-15* that **HEROD** found no fault in **HIM!**

And then he said as he washed his hands in *Matthew 27:24*—“I am innocent of the blood of this **just person ...**”

The **repentant thief on the cross** said in *Luke 23:41*—“And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: **but this man hath done nothing amiss.**”

At the foot of the cross in *Luke 23:47*—“Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, **Certainly this was a righteous man.**”

2 Corinthians 5:21—“For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Hebrews 4:15—“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin.**”

Hebrews 7:26-27—“For such an high priest became us, who is **holy,**

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harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”*

1 Peter 2:22—“Who **did no sin**, neither was guile found in his mouth:”

1 John 2:1—“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous:**”

1 John 3:5—“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him is no sin.**”

VI. UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS A PATH OF POSSIBILITIES!

A. Eternal Life Was Made Possible!

John 3:16—“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas, in *Acts 16:30-31*—“Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”

Romans 10:9-10—“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

B. Abundant Life Was Made Possible!

John 10:10—“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Conclusion

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OUR SAVIOUR'S PATH TO CALVARY:

A Path Of Humility, Temperance (Self-Control), Suffering, Love, Perfection, and Possibilities!

HE willingly walked that road for each of us!

If **HE** did that for us (and **HE** did) how then should we live for **HIM**?

1 Peter 2:19–24

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.