

Sermon Outline

CHRIST JESUS: THE KING OF THE JEWS, THE SAVIOR OF THE
WORLD:
A GOOD FRIDAY MESSAGE
(JOHN 19:16-19)

I. The Great Work of Jesus Christ

II. Mankind's Separation from God

- A. When God made the world, he made the human race dependent on him for life and wisdom.
 - 1. Only when men and women obey God would there be true peace, justice, and harmony in the world.
 - 2. Instead of relying on God, the human race relies on itself for its own solutions.
 - 3. The end result is that human beings continue to suffer.
- B. The worst part of being separated from God is the *separation* itself.
 - 1. Because he is the righteous Judge, God requires punishment for our sins.
 - 2. This punishment will be eternal death—eternal separation from God and his life-giving presence.
 - 3. The heart of all the problems in the world today comes down to one thing:
 - The human race is separated from God and desperately needs to be reconciled with him.
 - 4. The good news: God himself has made reconciliation possible.
 - 5. To reconcile us to himself, God sent the Lord Jesus Christ to die for our sins, thus accomplishing reconciliation by his death on the cross.

III. Jesus Christ Is Good News

- A. Most of what we know about the Lord Jesus Christ and his death is found in the Bible, the Scriptures of the Christian faith.
- B. The accounts of his death are in the first four books of the New Testament, we call “the Gospels.”
 - 1. The word “gospel” means good news.
 - 2. The Gospels are called such because they give us the good news of God.
 - 3. God’s good news to the world is Jesus himself—*Jesus has come to save you and me from our sins and reconcile us to God.*
- C. Rebellion against God is the main problem of the human race.
 - 1. This rebellion is called sin.
 - 2. Sin is basically a failure to do what God requires us to do.

3. The Bible teaches that each human being is a sinner (Rom 3:23).
- D. We sin against God in many ways.
1. Sin is not just the big things like murder or financial corruption.
 2. Sin is also found in the many small acts of unrighteousness that we do.
 - a. Sin can be a refusal to befriend others.
 - b. Sin can be a looking down on those who are broken and discouraged.
 - c. Sin can also take the form of an unwillingness to show patience and forgiveness.
 - d. All sin arises from a desire to rule one's own life—and a rejection of the Creator God as the rightful ruler of our lives.
- E. God has sent Jesus to die for our sins so that we don't have to.
—By sending Jesus to die for our sins, God is making a way for us to be saved from our sins so that we can return to God and live under his rule.
- F. John 19:16-19 presents us with the account of the crucifixion of Jesus.
1. Here, we learn about the events leading up to the crucifixion.
 2. Here, we also learn about the significance of the crucifixion event itself.
—*When Jesus was crucified, he was fulfilling his role as the rightful King of the Jews—and that is to die for the sins of the world!*

IV. Jesus Is Delivered to Be Crucified (John 19:16)

- A. John 19:16: “So he [the Roman governor Pontius Pilate] delivered him over to them to be crucified.”
- B. Prior to verse 16, Jesus was on trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
- C. Why was Jesus before Pilate in the first place?
1. One of Jesus' key teachings was that he was the Son of God, the One who bears God's own nature, the One whom God has appointed to save and rule the world (Jn 5:18; 19:7).
 2. The Jewish leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.
 3. When Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, they thought that he was a blasphemer, someone out to insult God and lead the Jewish people astray (Jn 19:7).
 4. Based on that fundamental misunderstanding, the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to be executed.
—Under Jewish law, the sin of blasphemy was punishable by death.
- D. By handing Jesus over to the Roman authorities to be crucified, the Jewish leaders were simply doing what God had destined them to do (Acts 4:28).
- E. Pilate himself could not find anything wrong with Jesus: “I find no guilt in him”
(Jn 18:38).
- F. Pilate hands the issue back to the Jews and asks them to decide Jesus' fate (Jn 18:38).

G. The Jewish leaders vote to put Jesus to death by crucifixion (Jn 19:40).

V. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:16-18)

A. Jesus is taken to Golgotha to be crucified (v 16).

B. Jesus is crucified along with two others (v 18).

C. The cross is the great symbol of the Christian faith.

1. Many people wear crosses as a fashion statement.
2. But the cross is *a tool of execution*—not a nice symbol!
3. Crucifixion was an awful way to die because it brings death through prolonged torture.

VI. Jesus, the King of the Jews (John 19:19)

A. Upon nailing Jesus to the cross, Pilate puts an inscription on Jesus' cross: "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

B. What does that slogan tell us about what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

1. Pilate very likely put up that notice as a way of mocking both Jesus and the Jewish people.
2. For Pilate, Caesar and Rome were the ultimate authority in his universe.
3. Little did Pilate know how appropriate the sign actually was.
4. Jesus really was the true and rightful King of the Jews.
5. He was the Son of God, whom God had sent to lead Israel and the world.
6. God ordained this inscription to be written to teach us that by dying on the cross for the sins of the world, Jesus was fulfilling what the King of the Jews was meant to do.

VII. The King of the Jews Will Save the World

A. Many centuries ago, there was a Jewish prophet named Isaiah.

B. Through Isaiah, God revealed that he would send his special Servant to die for the sins of his people.

C. This Servant—the final and supreme King of the Jews—would take the sins of the world upon himself and suffer God's punishment for all our sins once and for all.

D. The mission of the final King of the Jews is found in Isaiah 53:3-6:

³ *He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,*

smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions;
 he was crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
 and with his wounds we are healed.*
⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have turned—every one—to his own way;
 and the LORD has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.*

- E. How is it possible that a just and righteous God can forgive all kinds of wicked people and bring them back to himself?
—It’s because of what this Son of God, Jesus Christ, King of the Jews has done.
- F. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, God laid on him all of our wrongdoing in order that he can pardon us.
- G. By doing this, Jesus has done what a king ought to do for his people.
—He has saved his people from ultimate destruction; destruction from the wrath of God!

VIII. How Will We Respond to Jesus?

- A. Good Friday requires a response from all of us:
 - *What will we do with Jesus?*
 - *How ought you and I to respond to what Jesus Christ the King of the Jews has done?*
- B. There are several possible negative responses.
 1. “Since Jesus is the King of the Jews, his work is not relevant to us twenty-first century Singaporeans.”
 - a. God would not want us to think like that because the King of the Jews is his gift to all mankind.
 - b. What Jesus the King of the Jews did, he did for the whole world.
 2. “I’m not such a bad person!”
 - a. We like to think that we are not that bad compared to the wicked people who make the news.
 - b. Evil is always in someone else, never in us.
 - c. Ultimately, each of us will be judged according to *God’s* standards of righteousness, not *ours*.
 - d. The heart of God’s standards is simple: Do you love God with all of your being? Do you love your fellow human being as much as you love yourself?
 - e. If we are honest, we cannot say that we have.
 - f. And if we have not loved God to the fullest extent that we should, we are sinners.
 - g. Sin is punishable by eternal death (cf. Rom 6:23).
 3. “How can one man pay for the sins of the world—including mine?”

- a. Jesus is the Son of God, the most important person in the whole universe.
 - i. Through Jesus, God made the universe (Col 1:16).
 - ii. In Jesus, all the power and glory of God reside (Col 1:19).
—Therefore, Jesus’ life has infinite value.
 - b. For that reason—because Jesus is the Son of God—the life of Jesus is sufficient to pay for all the offenses that we have committed against God.
 - c. The life of Jesus is more than enough to compensate God for our sins.
- C. We know that God was satisfied with the payment that Jesus made because God raised him from the dead.
- 1. Philippians 2:8-9: “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. *Therefore God has highly exalted him* and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...”
 - 2. God exalted Jesus by raising him physically from the dead.
—More than 500 people witnessed Jesus alive again (1 Cor 15:6)
 - 3. God raised Jesus into the realm of heaven itself.
 - 4. Today, the Lord Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Acts 2:33) and will come again on the Day of Judgment.

IX. Relying on Jesus’ Death

God wants us to depend on Jesus’ death on the cross to be the punishment of our sins. God wants us to rely on Jesus’ death to reconcile us with him.

- A. That is the appropriate response to the death of Jesus on the cross.
- B. In Romans 3:23-25 (NKJV), the apostle Paul writes: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith...”
 - 1. The word “propitiation” summarizes what Jesus did on the cross.
 - a. To propitiate is to appease, to satisfy.
 - b. On the cross, the Son of God, the King of the Jews, satisfied God’s wrath against our sins.
 - 2. Paul adds the words “through faith.”
 - 1. By this, Paul means that we come into contact with the benefits of Jesus’ death only through faith, only by trusting in Jesus’ death to forgive our sins.
 - 2. If we do not rely on Jesus’ death to forgive our sins, if we go on ignoring what happened on the cross, we will not be forgiven.
—We will remain separated from God and under the condemnation of God.

3. But God has made another way for us—the way of forgiveness; the way of reconciliation with him.
—And this way is through Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews, the Son of God.

Will you take Jesus seriously? Will you receive the gift of the King of the Jews? Will you trust in Jesus to pay for all your sins and reconcile you to God?