



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 46

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 19:16-30

Summary:

Our passage this week is one of the most difficult in all of Scripture. The crucifixion of Jesus is one of the turning points of human history, representing the Son's ultimate obedience and submission to the Father's will. It's the greatest possible expression of love, an act of sacrifice by the perfect man – the God-man – on behalf of a sinful and rebellious people. As readers of John's gospel consider the question "Who is Jesus?" – our passage this week gives perhaps one of the clearest possible answers. He is the One who loves perfectly, the One whose love moves him to action, to save those whom He loves. Through this perfect love, through his perfect obedience to the Father's will, Jesus is indeed "...the founder and perfecter of our faith," (Heb. 12:2).

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. V. 18 shows us that Jesus' crucifixion was (in one sense) not unique – the Romans used this method of execution quite regularly. In fact, Jesus' suffering was likely shorter than the suffering of the other criminals (see vv. 31-33). What is it, then, about Jesus' crucifixion that is so earth-shattering? Why was this event such a uniquely tragic and powerful one?
Application: As you read this story, does it move you still? If not, how might you regain your sense of wonder and gratitude for what Jesus did on the cross?

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3. What's significant about Pilate's inscription on Jesus' cross (vv. 19-22)? What do you think Pilate was doing with this inscription?
4. What's the significance of the Scripture reference in v. 24? Read through Psalm 22 – how does it change your understanding of Jesus' suffering and his trust in the Father?
5. **Application:** How might Psalm 22 change your own response to suffering?
6. Why do you think that John emphasizes the presence of the four women (v. 25) at the cross? Notice that the only other one mentioned is likely John himself ("the disciple whom he loved" in verse 26). What do you think John intends with this? Compare with Luke 23:26-49 and Matt 27:32-56.
7. Read vv. 26-27. What is Jesus concerned about, even as he is dying? **Application:** In times of pain and suffering, do your thoughts turn to others, or do they turn inward? What might we do to reflect Christ better in those times?
8. Why do you think it's important that Jesus sought to "fulfill Scripture" with his last request (v. 28)? What does this tell us about Jesus' own understanding of his crucifixion and death?
9. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?