

- I) V25-27 INTRO: Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and His mother's sister
 - a) BEGIN: Jesus has been betrayed, and has been tried before the Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate
 - 1) As He stood before Pilate, Pilate asked Him Are you the King of the Jews (Jn 18:33)
 - 2) Pilate wanted to determine if Jesus was a political king or a Jewish, Messianic king
 - 3) AT THIS POINT: Allow me to establish a bit of a context by taking you to Ch 18
- II) JN 18:34-35 JESUS SAID: Are you speaking for yourself about this or did someone inform you of Me
 - a) Is this a result of your own curiosity, or have you been fed information concerning Me?
 - 1) V35 Pilate makes it clear: This isn't an issue I am interested in! I am a governor, not a priest
- III) JN 18:36 JESUS ANSWERED: My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world
 - a) If I were an earthly king, my first priority would be to have a military defending Me
 - 1) OBVIOUSLY: My kingdom follows different rules than earthly kingdoms
 - 2) Ro 14:17 the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
- IV) V37 PILATE: Therefore said to Him Are You a king then? Jesus answered You say rightly
 - a) JESUS' ANSWER: *You say rightly that I am a king.*
 - 1) ALSO: For this cause I was born and came into the world, to bear witness of truth
- V) V37 NOTICE: Everyone who is *of the truth* hears My voice
 - a) MY FOLLOWERS: Are those who know the Truth and who seek *the truth*
 - 1) Jn 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
- VI) V38 PILATE SAID TO HIM: *What is truth*
 - a) I have heard so many philosophies over a lifetime of government service: *What is truth?*
 - 1) IMPORTANT: This is a good question: Just what is truth, and does it matter?
- VII) EVEN CHRISTIANS; Seem to be confused about whether such a thing as *truth* exists or matters
 - a) FOR MANY: Truth is not something you *know*, it is something you *feel*
- VIII) ILLUSTRATION: I heard of a man who went to trial for killing an ex-girlfriend's cat
 - a) A 6' 3" 205 lb. ex-minor league baseball player killed a 7-lb. de-clawed cat
 - 1) He broke its teeth, split its tongue, tore its lungs and broke its ribs
 - 2) He was tried for animal cruelty, and animal lovers are absolutely outraged over this
 - 3) UNDERSTANDABLY: Pr 12:10 A righteous *man* regards the life of his animal
- IX) WHAT WOULD YOU FEEL: If one of your friends told you their pet had been killed by someone?
 - a) QUESTION: How do you feel if the same friend tells you that they had just had an abortion?
 - 1) Many are more outraged over global warming then traditional marriage
- X) AGAIN: The question Pilate asked is still relevant in the 21st century: What is truth
 - a) John does not record a specific answer, but his gospel supplies the answer
 - 1) On the cross and at the tomb is where the answer to this question is to be found
 - 2) Ps 119:160 The entirety of *Your word* is truth
 - 3) Jn 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. *Your word is truth*
- I) V38 IN HIS CASE: He had no interest in pursuing a dialogue and found Him to be innocent

- a) YET: Instead of setting Him free, He allowed Jesus to be taken and crucified
- II) FROM THERE: Jesus was taken and led away to Calvary, where He was crucified
 - a) Mk 15:25 Tells us His crucifixion occurred at 9 a.m.
 - 1) Though on the cross, Jesus' ministry continued
- III) V25 NOW: There stood *by the cross of Jesus* His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife
 - a) At the foot of the cross we find several women clustered
 - 1) They have remained with Jesus to the very end
- IV) V26 WHEN JESUS: Therefore *saw His mother* and the disciple whom He loved standing by
 - a) Mary is there, watching her beloved Son die a horrible, agonizing death on a cross
 - 1) HE HAD: Been beaten, His beard had been pulled out of His face, His back an open wound
- V) THIS: Had been prophesied over 700 years earlier by the prophet Isaiah
 - a) Is 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.
 - b) Is 52:14 Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men
- VI) STAGGERING: Under His cross, too weak to carry it further He had finally been taken to Calvary
 - a) PERHAPS: Mary had followed the procession to this site
 - 1) UNDOUBTEDLY: She was there when they fastened Him to the cross, nails driven deeply through His flesh, and into the cruel wood
- VII) SHE HEARD: Him moan as they lifted the cross and it slid into the ground with a hollow thud
 - a) A crown of thorns had been placed on his head, and perhaps it still was there
 - 1) Spit had dried, blood was caking, His head was swollen, and His hair was matted with grime
 - 2) Is 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- VIII) AS ANY PARENT WOULD: Thoughts of His life surely passed before her eyes in a moment
 - a) Did she remember the words of Simeon who had prophesied this day?
 - 1) Lu 2:34-35 Then he turned to Joseph and Mary and blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against; (*yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also*), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.
- IX) MARY: Stood there in silence as Her son was mocked and scorned as He was dying on the cross
 - a) Perhaps she thought of what the psalmist had written so long ago
 - 1) Ps 22:6-8 But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!
 - 2) SHE STOOD SILENTLY: As two thieves also being crucified hurled cruel words at her Son
 - a) Save Yourself and us, take us from the cross they cried!
- I) SURELY: Her heart ached when the passers by and the religious leaders mocked Him
 - a) They said He saved others but He cannot save Himself!

- 1) SADLY: Of all people, the religious leaders should have known better
- II) AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS: She had seen the cruel indifference of the soldiers
 - a) For them crucifixion was simply part of their duties, and another way of making a living:
 - 1) She saw them gamble for His clothes and divide what little He had amongst themselves
- III) FOR SIX LONG HOURS: Mary stood there watching her Son slowly and painfully die
 - a) Standing beside her were her friends and relatives
 - 1) As Jesus was suffering, He began to survey the people there and His eyes fell on Mary
- IV) V26-27 HE SAYS: *Woman*, behold your son!
 - a) It is more probable that he said *woman* because he wished to spare her feelings
 - 1) FIRST: Had He said *mother* the sound of the word may have wrung her heart with greater sorrow
 - 2) SECOND: Had He said mother, she would have been a target for those who would hurt her
- V) KEY: Jesus was entrusting his mother into the care of His disciple John
 - a) WHY: It is likely that Joseph was dead: Mary's other children were yet unsaved
 - 1) Jesus knew His mother was suffering, and knew how lonely she would be without Him
- VI) V27 FROM THAT HOUR: That disciple took her to his own home
 - a) Jesus possibly gave a look to John to take her away
 - 1) It is possible that he took Mary immediately from the place to save her from seeing Him die
- VII) V28-30 AFTER: This Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished that *the Scripture* might
 - a) Dehydration has set in: His tongue is cleaving to the roof of His mouth
 - 1) Someone mercifully wets His lips with vinegar
 - 2) Ps 69:21 They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink
- VIII) THIS MOISTENED HIS DRY MOUTH: And He was able to cry *It is finished!* Tetelestai: Paid in full
 - a) Salvation had been won: the price had been paid
 - 1) 1 Pe 1:18-19 you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot
 - 2) Jesus died victorious, having paid the debt in full (On the cross, not in hell!)
 - 3) MORRIS: Jesus died with the *cry of the Victor* on His lips. This is not the moan of the defeated nor the sigh of patient resignation. It is the *triumphant recognition* that He has now fully accomplished the work that He came to do
- IX) V30 AND *BOWING* HIS HEAD: He *gave up* His spirit (THE THOUGHT: A peaceful death)
 - a) *Bowing* His head is an expression that is also used when someone is going to bed
 - 1) KEY: Luke gives us more insight into what occurs next
 - 2) Lu 23:46 When Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last.
- I) THESE WORDS: Are taken from Ps 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit
 - a) They have formed part of the evening prayers for centuries and may have done so for Jesus

- II) FACT: What is so touching is that Jesus prayed this prayer as He laid His head on the cross
 - a) As He was accustomed to pray every night, He prayed now for the last time
 - 1) Jesus died with a psalm on His lips, as He gently, peacefully and willingly died

- III) NOTICE: John says And bowing His head, *He gave up* His spirit (willingly)
 - a) Jesus had accomplished His Father's will and perfectly performed what He had been sent to do
 - 1) Jn 10:17-18 Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

- IV) AS HE DID SO: Mark records what happened
 - a) Mk 15:38-39 The veil of the temple was torn in two from *top to bottom*. So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this, and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

- V) FIRST: The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
 - a) KEY: The veil was torn in two from *top* to bottom: God tore it open, establishing fellowship
 - 1) The veil separated the Holy place from the Holiest: 60' long, 30' broad, palm breadth

- VI) KEY: The Most Holy place is now open to all, who come through Jesus: Heaven is available to us
 - a) A one time for all time act on the part of the Lord: *Jesus* bridged the Gap:
 - 1) Heb 10:19-20 We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body

- VII) SECOND: When Jesus was lifted up, He drew this centurion's attention to Himself
 - a) Truly this Man was the Son of God!