

Genesis 22:1-14

¹ Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”
“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on

the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹² “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

John 19:16-42

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them

and cast lots for my garment."

So, this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "**Woman, here is your son,**" ²⁷ and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "**I am thirsty.**" ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "**It is finished.**" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken

down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Sermon: It is Finished

Please have your Bibles opened at our Old Testament (OT) reading from **Genesis 22** initially – then we'll look at the New Testament (NT) reading from **John 19:16-42**. There is an outline if you would like to take down some notes!

Let me **pray** first...

[Slide 1-Context]

Intro/Context

Last Sunday – **Palm Sunday** – we saw how **Jesus rode into Jerusalem** on a donkey – the place was **packed to the rafters** – between **1-2 million people** in the city for the festival of **Passover** – and the people were so excited – waving **palm leaves** – proclaiming Jesus as their **King** – and singing “*Hosanna! Hosanna!*” – which means “*Please, save us now!*” “*Please, save us now!*”

And we said – the **people** and Jesus' **disciples** – hadn't quite **understood Jesus' mission**.

Jesus is a King alright – but not a **military King** – not a King who would **kick** the occupying **Romans out** of Israel – but a **Servant King** – who **came to serve** – not **be served** – and who **came to lay down His life** for people's sin – to **fix** the **broken relationship between God and humankind**.

So, here we are - now 5 days later – and **things have changed** – **Jesus** has been **arrested** – for **blasphemy** [saying He is God] and for **saying He is a King!**

Both of which are true – but He was **found guilty** nonetheless - and sentenced to be crucified.

And no one has really understood – that **Jesus' death is all part of God's plan**!

The year is around **30-33AD**

But the story of the cross **starts about 2000 years earlier** than Jesus – 2000BC

[4000 years ago]

In our Old Testament Reading – from **Genesis 22** – **the sacrifice of Jesus is foreshadowed**

[Slide 2-Foreshadowed]

Jesus' Sacrifice Foreshadowed (Genesis 22:1-14)

[Please turn to our Old Testament Reading – Genesis 22]

And we discover – verse 1 - **God tests Abraham**

V2 – God tells Abraham to take his only son – **Isaac** – up a mountain in the region of **Moriah** – and **sacrifice him as a burnt offering**.

Now remember Abraham is now over 100 years old and he's waited 25 years from age 75 for God's promise of the birth of his son Isaac to be fulfilled – and **God even promised Abraham**, he would have **many descendants – through his son Isaac!**

But if Abraham sacrifices Isaac, **what happens to that promise?**

Nevertheless – **Abraham obeys God** and heads up the mountain.

I'm not sure I could do what Abraham does? Maybe, you feel the same?

It's **amazing faith!**

(pause)

Up the **mountain Abraham** goes with his son **Isaac**

And look at verse 6 – **Isaac carries the wood** that he's going to be burnt and sacrificed on!

Issac's beginning to get a bit **edgy** at this stage – and asks his dad – verse 7 -
‘where's the lamb for the burnt offering?’

And Abraham replies “*God Himself will provide the lamb*”

The **tension builds** in verse 10 – as **Abraham is about to take a knife to his only son** – and make that sacrifice!

But just at the **last moment** – an **angel of the Lord** – intervenes - verses 11 and 12 – and **a ram is provided for the sacrifice** (verse 13)

There are **so many parallels here to Jesus and the Cross**:

[Slide 1A-parallels]

- **Abraham** is called to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, whom he loves deeply. **God the Father** allows the sacrifice of his beloved Son Jesus!
- God provides a ram as a **substitute sacrifice** for Isaac, sparing his life. God provides a **substitute sacrifice** for us by allowing Jesus, the Lamb of God, to die for the sin of the world!
- Both Abraham and Jesus **show complete obedience and submission to God's will.**
- Also, in Jewish tradition, **Mount Moriah** is believed to be the **location** where Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice. **Golgotha**, the site of Jesus' crucifixion in John 19, is traditionally identified within the **same general area** as Mount Moriah.
- The **binding** of Issac ready for sacrifice in verse 9 – **foreshadows Jesus bound on the cross.**

This event in Genesis 22 foreshadows Jesus' sacrifice on the cross!

[Now we can turn to our New Testament passage from John 19:16-42]

Pick up story at John 19:16 – **Jesus** is **handed over** to be crucified

And we see in v17 – just like Isaac carried the wood on his back – **Jesus is carrying his own wooden cross**.

Whenever people saw a man carrying a cross – they knew it was a **death march** – it was a **one-way trip** – to be crucified. And the Romans made the **guilty person carry the cross** as a **deterrent** – so those watching would think twice about breaking the law!

As we continue through John 19

Let's explore some truths about Jesus' death on that first Good Friday

[Slide 3-Heading-Truths about Jesus' death]

Jesus is available for all (John 19:19-22)

[Slide 3a]

First – *Jesus is available for all* – verses 19-22

We see that the Roman Governor – **Pilate** – fastened a **notice** to the **cross** – saying – “*Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews*”

It was written in **Aramaic** – the language of the locals - and in **Latin** – the language used by Roman officials – and in **Greek**, the common language used for communication between groups speaking different language – and Greek is the language the **NT is written in**.

Even though the **chief priests complained** to Pilate about the **wording** and wanted it changed to “**Jesus claimed to be King**”.

Pilate was **adamant the wording was to remain as it is!** It’s **ironic** that **Pilate** was **strong** on his wording – **but weak** when he had the opportunity to release Jesus when he knew Jesus was not guilty.

With the notice being in **all three languages** – the **identity of Jesus was as public** as it could be – and it **reminds us** that **King Jesus is available to ALL nations and available to ALL people who care to come and believe in Him!**

Jesus is our High Priest (John 19:23-24)

[Slide 3b]

Second – ***Jesus is our High Priest*** – that’s in verses 23 and 24

The Roman **soldiers** who crucified Jesus **share his clothes** apart from the undergarment – which can’t be easily torn – as it is **seamless** and made from one whole piece of cloth. If we read Exodus 28:31-32 – we find a **description of the robe worn by the High Priest** – Aaron – and it was also a **seamless one-piece garment**. The job of the High Priest was to **make sacrifices for sin on behalf of the people**. And that’s precisely what Jesus is doing on the cross – making a **sacrifice for sin on behalf of the people**.

Only, **Jesus’ sacrifice is once and for all** – and He Himself IS the sacrifice.

And Jesus is our Great High Priest!

Jesus is always compassionate (John 19:25-27)

[Slide 3c]

Third – *Jesus is always compassionate* – that's verses 25 to 27

At the cross we find:

Jesus' **mother, Mary**

Mary's sister – which we know from Mark and Matthew's Gospels (Mark 15:40; Matthew 27:56) is **Salome**, the mother of James and John – which makes **Salome, Jesus' aunty** – and makes **James and John, Jesus' cousins**

Also at the cross is **Mary**, the wife of Clopas

And **Mary Magdalene** – from whom Jesus casts out **seven demons** (Mark 16:9 and Luke 8:2)

It's very telling that apart from Peter and John; the **rest of Jesus' male disciples had fled in fear** (Matthew 26:56); whereas the **women remained to the end, at the cross.**

And **look at the compassion and selflessness of Jesus here.** He's barely able to breathe – and yet he **makes provision for his dear mum** – Mary – and tells the “*disciple whom Jesus loved*” – which is **John**, his cousin – to look after Mary. Jesus can't ask his brothers because they didn't believe in Jesus yet (John 7:5). John is to care for Mary as his mum – and Mary is to care for John as her son!

Jesus is always compassionate – even to the last moments of His life!

We can learn from Jesus' compassion – and **emulate it** – can't we?

Jesus is our Passover Lamb (John 19:28-29)

[Slide 3d]

Fourth – *Jesus is our Passover Lamb* – that’s verses 28 and 29.

Jesus is almost dead and **calls out** that He is **thirsty**.

Those beside the cross, **give Jesus, wine vinegar**, to fulfil Psalm 69:21 “*in my thirst, they gave me vinegar*”

The **sponge** used to administer the wine vinegar was **on the end of the stalk of a hyssop plant**. This is no coincidence. Back in Exodus 12:22 at the time of the Passover [Explain]. At Passover, the ancient **Israelites** were told to **smear blood from the Passover Lamb over the doorframes**; the blood was smeared on the doorframes **using a bunch of hyssop**.

What John wants us to see is the connection between the **blood of the Passover lamb** in Exodus - used to save the people from death – and the **blood of Jesus, our Passover Lamb**, and His blood and His death which saves people from sin and death.

Through His death, the blood of **Jesus, is like the blood of the Passover Lamb** – and so the punishment for our sin – which is death – **passes over us!**

Jesus’ death points to the Sacraments (John 19:31-37)

[Slide 3e]

Fifth – *Jesus’ death points to the Sacraments* – that’s in verses 31 to 37

Because Jesus' **crucifixion** took place on **Friday** – known as the **Preparation Day** – and the **day before the Sabbath** – which is **Saturday**. Jewish law said that **dead bodies could not be left hanging overnight** (Deuteronomy 21:23)

So, the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to **have the legs broken and the bodies taken down for burial**. When the soldiers came to **Jesus**, he was already dead – so they didn't break his legs (fulfilling Psalm 34:20)

Instead, they **pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and - blood and water - poured out of His side.**

The **blood and water** were like an **on-the-spot autopsy** of Jesus, revealing that His actual cause of death was of a **ruptured heart**. The thinking is that in such cases, the sack surrounding the heart (normally filled with a watery substance) **fills with blood**. If that sack is opened and its contents allowed to flow outside the body, it would look like an issue of blood and water (because the two substances do not mix, something like oil and water). The medical term for this is "***pleural effusion***" or "***pericardial effusion***".

The bottom line is – **Jesus was definitely dead** – and we can rule out sceptics who say Jesus had just passed out!

The **blood and water** can also remind us of the **two sacraments** Jesus left us – the **blood reminding us of the Lord's Supper** – and the **water reminding us of Baptism!**

Jesus' death empowers people (John 19:38-42, 35)

[Slide 3f]

Sixth – **Jesus' death empowers people** – that's verses 38 and 42.

A man named Joseph of Arimathea – a **secret disciple** of Jesus and a **member of the Jewish council** – the Sanhedrin (Luke 23:50) – **asks Pilate for Jesus' body for burial.**

And another secret follower Nicodemus – a **Pharisee** and **member of the Jewish Council** – helped to bury Jesus.

Both Joseph and Nicodemus had not gone public about following Jesus because they were **afraid of** the other **Jewish leaders!**

But here they DO go public and take a **huge risk** in **going to Pilate** for Jesus' body.

What caused Joseph and Nicodemus to change?

We can only conclude – **the manner of Jesus' death** – and the **events of that first Good Friday** – empowered Joseph and Nicodemus – and convinced them – that **Jesus IS the Messiah King** – the **Saviour of the World** – and they didn't really care anymore what happened to them – because Jesus is who He says He is.

As John himself puts it this way - in verse 35 – *“he [John] knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you may also believe”*

You see – when we know the truth about Jesus – **it empowers us.**

It doesn't matter what anyone else thinks or says – we know Jesus is our Lord and Saviour – who cares what anyone else thinks or says.

As the Apostle Paul put's it in Romans 8:31 – *“if God is for us, who can be against us?”*

Jesus finished His Father's Rescue Plan (John 19:30)

[Slide 3g]

Seventh – [we have to have seven – God's number] – *Jesus finished His father's rescue plan* – that's in verse 30.

In this verse – we have Jesus last words on the cross – “*it is finished*”

Not – He's finished – but the mission God the Father gave His Son Jesus to do – has finished.

The punishment for people's sin – is paid for in full – by Jesus' death on the cross.

No more sacrifices for sin required!

No need to work our way to Heaven!

The Romans and Jewish leaders – and Satan for that matter – **might have thought they've got rid of Jesus the rebel and trouble maker** – but it was all part of God's plan for Jesus to die on that first Good Friday – so that there could be peace and reconciliation between God and human kind.

(pause)

Our Response

[Slide 4-Heading]

Of course, there has to be a personal response from us...

Jesus puts it simply in Mark 1:15:

[Slide 4a-Mark 1:15]

“The time has come,” He said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

We have to personally repent of OUR sins – and believe Jesus died for ME/US

Jesus is no false recruiter though – when He asks us to follow Him – He says in Matthew 10:38

[Slide 4b-Matt 10:38]

Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

The message version puts it like this:

Jesus is saying: ***"If you don't go all the way with me, through thick and thin, you don't deserve me. If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me."***

You see – **Good Friday is all about what Jesus has done – and so following Jesus is all about Him – NEVER about us.**

(pause)

Let me try and explain it this way:

If we were asked the classic question: ***"If you were to die today, how do you know you're going to Heaven?"***

If we answer that question in the first person – we're on dodgy ground

If we begin our answer: ***"Because I – believe – Because I – have faith – Because I love Jesus ... Because I have done all these good things – Because I help people – Because I..."*** – then we're not understanding Good Friday!

[Slide 4c-Jesus]

We need to answer the question in the third person – ***“Because - HE - Jesus – did it all – and it’s finished”***

Back in our passage from John 19 – verse 18 – we’re told that Jesus was crucified with two men either side of him and Jesus in the middle.

Luke tells us **the two other men were criminals** (Luke 23:32)

Matthew and Mark tell us **they were two rebels** (Matthew 27:38 and Mark 15:27)

In Luke’s version – we’re also told that one of those criminals rebuked the other -
by saying ***“Don’t you fear God”*** he said, ***“since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong”***. Then he said ***“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom”***

Jesus then made an amazing promise to this guy ***“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise”***

I find this quite amazing.

This criminal - didn’t get baptized – he hadn’t been to bible study – or a Christian Explained Workshop – he didn’t know anything about church membership – I’m sure he didn’t know about the Apostle Paul’s explanation on “justification by faith” or anything about “sanctification” – but he’s in Heaven!

You can **imagine** this criminal arriving in Heaven

And an angel saying ***“how did you get here? I might need to get my supervisor”***

[Slide 4d-The guy on the middle cross]

I expect the man’s reply would be ***“Because the guy on the middle cross said so!”***

You see, it’s ALL about the guy on the middle cross!

It's **NOT** about us!

It's **ALL** about Jesus!

Let's pray...

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your grace and mercy in allowing your beloved Son to be the once and for all sacrifice for sin – on that first Good Friday.

Thank you, Jesus, – for your blood poured out for us to be forgiven

Thank you, Jesus, – for your body broken for us

Thank you, Jesus, – that because of you – we have a place in Heaven

Amen