

Are You the Son of God?

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Sermon series: Watch and Pray

Luke 22: 63-71

- The Last Supper, the new meaning of the Passover meal;
- Jesus predicts that one of them will betray him;
- there is an argument about who is the greatest;
- Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him;
- Jesus spends time in prayer asking God to remove the cup;
- Jesus prays that the disciples may not enter into temptation;
- Jesus finds his disciples sleeping, and he says: rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation;
- The execution and betrayal of Jesus and arrest by a “kiss”;
- Peter cuts the ear of the guard to defend Jesus;
- Jesus heals the guard’s ear and says: “No more of this!”
- Peter denies Jesus three times, and the rooster crows;
- Jesus turns and looks at Peter, Peter weeps bitterly.

You will wonder why are we spending time in reading in details of suffering of Jesus.

It is important to dive in the passion stories; there, we experience Jesus of Nazareth, the historical Jesus facing rejection, mocking, betrayal, denial...

We experience Jesus Christ the Messiah, the promised Son of God going through all this humiliation for me and you and all humanity. We learn about God and about ourselves through the suffering of Jesus.

Today we will walk with Jesus and see how he was treated during that time.

-Holding, Mocking, Beating

⁶³ Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. ⁶⁴ They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him. (Luke 22:63-65 ESV)

The Romans were experts in torturing people before crucifying them. Jesus was whipped several times. The other gospels describe the details of Jesus' physical suffering.

-Luke writes a shorter version. Yet, he does not minimize the suffering of our Lord. He uses the words: holding, mocking, blindfolding, asking questions to make fun of him... Brothers and sisters, these are deeper than physical pain.

-Can you envision the humiliation that took place in the High Priest's home? Strange, the soldiers were playing a game called Blind Man's Bluff. Guess who hit you, prophecy.

"In their mocking, they identify him as a 'prophet,' the most popular conception of Jesus. But the Jewish leadership needs a stronger charge than that to get Jesus before the court of Rome. Rome worried about would-be kings, not prophets. And this is all at night. In the morning the official trial will start."¹

-Jesus prepared the disciples about this:

"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. (Luke 18:31-32 ESV)

-Herod later: **And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. (Luke 23:11 ESV)**

-Soldiers at the crucifixion: **The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine (Luke 23:36 ESV)**

The four gospel writers described different phases of the sufferings of Jesus, starting from beating, slapping, spitting, whipping all the way to the crucifixion. Mocking the Son of God, which means mocking God, is as hurtful.

-Bullying is cruel and abusive. It can hurt and deeply damage someone's heart. It is extremely painful. I remember in the schools once bullying was so "normal". We should stop from this behavior. Until now this sin continues in our environment. Please let us be aware of this.

Our Lord was mocked, and he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah describes the suffering Messiah:

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..... He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; (Isaiah 53:3,7, ESV)

What can I see here?

1. **God loves you and me.** Jesus is ready to be humiliated so that wages of the sin will be paid. Who is this Jesus? How can I not worship my Lord and Savior.

Who is this Jesus who **“for my sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”** (2 Cor 5:21)

2. **I learn to follow Him, which means: taking the cross and following him.**

I was listening to a testimony of a couple who became Christians turning away from another religion. They endured so much suffering as Christ followers. They were exiled from two countries. Of course, nothing if comparable with the suffering of Jesus. They left everything behind, all their wealth and family. Yet, they are sharing the joy that Jesus gave them. We learn to carry the cross and follow Jesus.

To be a follower of Jesus is costly. Therefore, come to Jesus in humility to be His faithful follower, to know Him and to be in an intimate relationship with our Lord who suffered.

-Morning Trial

⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ, tell us.” But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.” ⁷¹ Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.” (Luke 22:63-71 ESV)

It is morning, and who is in the court?

All the Jewish leaders, priests, teachers of the law, elders, (this is probably the Sanhedrin, composed of leading Jews) ²

They were examining Jesus. How legal was this interrogation? Here are the points of the NIV commentary’s authors:

- (1) The proceedings did not take place at the temple.
 - (2) Jesus is allowed no defense.
 - (3) Jesus does not blaspheme in the technical sense of the term by using the divine name (*San. 7:5*).
- According to the Jews, blasphemy is to curse using the name of God. Jesus did not do that, and he was accused of blasphemy.
- (4) The verdict comes on the same day as the trial, when two days were required for capital crimes.
 - (5) Jesus is being tried on a feast day, normally prohibited.
 - (6) Contradictory testimony is supposed to exonerate the defendant (*San. 5:2*; this point applies more to the temple discussion in Matthew and Mark).
 - (7) The high priest is not supposed to issue the pronouncement of guilt. Exceptions to some of these procedures might be allowed in certain situations, but the mass of them indicates just how quickly (and illegally?) the trial proceeds.³

What were the inquiries?

Please notice both questions focus on Jesus' identity.

"If you are the Christ, tell us."

"Are you the Son of God, then?"

-Let us take the first inquiry:

"If you are the Christ, tell us."

They were trying to trap Jesus. It was political question. The messianic figure for them was a political person who would conquer the Romans. Funny, they wanted the Romans to be defeated, but here they wanted Jesus to be a political figure so they could execute him.

What was Jesus' answer. He did not answer them the way they wanted.

"If I tell you, you will not believe,⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer.⁶⁹ But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." (Luke 22:67-69 ESV)

Jesus knows that they are not seeking real answer. He quotes from Psalm 110 and Daniel 7. God promised that the Son of David would sit on the right side of God.

Which means the Son of God has power and authority.

-Strange, who is judging who? The Jewish authority thinks they are judging him. In reality, God is in charge here, and they are judged by rejecting King Jesus, the Messiah.

Here is the prophecy in the book of Daniel.

“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom.. (Daniel 7:13,14a ESV)

-Second inquiry:

“Are you the Son of God, then?”

They are agitated and need a solid confession from Jesus so that they could accuse him and bring him to the Roman authority to sentence Jesus to death.

Question him: “Will you really sit next to God? Do you mean you are God and more than Caesar?” (my words)

A wise answer from Jesus,

“You say that I am.”

“I AM”, this should remind us of all the “I AM”s Jesus said in His teachings. Jesus’ answer is not a direct affirmation. But He is not denying what they said.

“In a real sense, Jesus sends himself to the cross because he is faithful to his identity in the midst of an audience that rejects his claims. He makes no effort to save his life by denying who he is.”⁴

Please notice, Jesus does not defend himself or argue. He answers wisely and does not play games. He knows that they will accuse him and eventually kill him.

Jesus is in control of the situation. He does not lose his temper. The conversation and examination reveal one more time that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Son of David, the Son of Man, the Messiah, and He has authority.

Just remember what Jesus prayed: “Not my will, but yours be done...”

Application:

The soldiers played games on Jesus; the Jewish leaders were not interested knowing the truth about Jesus. I pray that we don’t play games with Jesus. Jesus is not a theocratical, a philosophical, a moral teacher. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to die on the cross. He loved humanity. He invites us to follow him. It is costly to be a disciple of Jesus. Let us not cheapen the grace of God.

“Did God really have to go to this extent to fix the problem of sin?...”

Was it necessary for him to lay down concrete and empirical evidence during his life that he was not just a wise man, but in fact, the one and only son of God? Was it really necessary for him to be mocked, spat upon, and executed in a torturous and public way?

Was it necessary at the point of his death, for graves to open and the veil separating the Holy of Holies to be spontaneously torn into two?...

Was it vital for him to walk out for that tomb, alive and well?...

The answer to every one of these questions is resounding yes! Every detail of the history of redemption was necessary. Every moment in the life of Christ was necessary. Every aspect of his suffering, death, and resurrection was necessary. It was all essential, because there was no other way to reverse the damage that sin had done or to rescue those who were held in a death grip.... There was no easy way out.”⁵

Amen.

1. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 577
2. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 578
3. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 578
4. Darrell L. Bock, *NIV Study Bible Commentary Luke*, P 579
5. Paul David Tripp, *Journey to the Cross* P 63,64

“Jesus receives our hatred and does not return it. He suffers and does not make the other suffer. He does not first look at changing others, but pays the price of change within himself. He absorbs the mystery of human sin rather than passing it on. He does not use his suffering and death as power over others to punish them, but as power for others to transform them.” Richard Rohr, *Hope Against Darkness*, (Franciscan Media, Cincinnati, 2001), 31