

Suffering Servant (Mark 15:16-32)

Café Church - 06-July-17

Related passages:

Psalm 22:1, 8, 15-18

Isaiah 53:5, 8-10

There are Bibles on the table in front of you

And a sermon outline

And some questions

Let me pray first...

Context/Irony/Dramatic Irony

Last week we left Jesus convicted of being a King which conflicted with Caesar being the only King - and so Jesus was sent to be crucified

Before we look at tonight's passage though

I want to look at the idea of irony:

[Powerpoint 1-Defintion-Irony]

A situation that is strange or funny because things happen in a way that seems the opposite of what you expected

Like the most shoplifted book in America is the Bible!

McDonalds own employee health page warns against eating McDonalds burgers and fries

The inventor of the stop sign never learnt to drive

Alexander Graham Bell who invented the telephone - refused to keep one in his study in case he got distracted

Then there's dramatic irony

[Powerpoint 2-Dramatic irony]

Is where the audience or the reader knows something that the character in the story doesn't necessarily know

We have dramatic irony in our passage this evening:

Jesus Mocked (vv16-20)

So Jesus was led away into the Praetorium which was the residence of the governor - Pontius Pilate

And the Roman soldiers mocked Jesus - they dressed him up in a purple robe - purple was the colour of royalty. They put a crown of thorns on him and they laughed at Him and called him "King of the Jews"

[Powerpoint3-Jesus Mocked]

That's the dramatic irony - they call him King of the Jews - in jest

But the irony is - that HE IS the King of Heaven and Earth!

They twisted the crown of thorns on him - they struck him with a stick and spat on him!

This was the start of Christian persecution - which occurred for almost 300 years in the Roman Empire - following Jesus' death

Example of picture of walls of Pompeii

[Powerpoint 4-Mockery to Christians]



Anaximenes worships his God - and it's a Christian kneeling before an Ass!

If ever people make fun of our Christianity - it will help to remember that they did it first to Jesus and to the early Christians - in a way that was much worse than anything that is likely to happen to us!

Jesus Crucified (vv21-32)

The cruelty continues with the cross.

We get some idea of how much suffering Jesus has gone through

[Powerpoint 5-Jesus Crucified]

When we see in v21 that Simon, from Cyrene (present day Libya in Africa) - who's obviously in Jerusalem for the Passover - is forced to carry Jesus' cross

Refusal would have got Simon killed!

Roman crucifixion was always carried out the same way

The criminal usually carried the cross to the place of execution

A soldier marked in front with a board stating the crime

The board was later fixed to the cross.

They always took the longest way to the place of execution.

So that as many people as possible could see the criminal and see what happens when you break Roman law

The place of execution was *Golgotha* (landscape that looked like a skull)

Jesus refused to take wine mixed with myrrh - (prophecy Psalm 69:21 - and verse 36)

And the soldiers cast lots for his clothes (prophecy Psalm 22:18)

When he was crucified - the sign read: King of the Jews -

The irony is - as we said - HE IS THE KING OF KINGS!

And there's further irony in v27 in that he was crucified with 2 rebels - 2 criminals - a symbol of Jesus' whole earthly life - He was always in the company of sinners - the one's lost from God

V28 - missing - some manuscripts have Luke 22:37

It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

Even the insults from the people passing by have irony

"So you who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days"

Little do they know what they are saying!

Jesus IS the temple. And He will be raised in 3 days

And the physical temple will be destroyed in AD 70!

Then they say "Come down from the cross and save yourself!"

The irony is - it's because Jesus didn't come down from the cross that WE are saved.

It's because Jesus didn't come down from the cross - that we know there is no limit to God's love - It's absolutely necessary for Jesus to die on the cross - for sins to be forgiven. It's absolutely necessary for Jesus to die on the cross - so he can rise 3 days later and offer eternal life!

Then they say "Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross, that we may believe"

Again the irony

He is the Messiah

He is the King of Israel

And we believe in Jesus - because He didn't come down off the cross!

Lessons

What lessons can we learn from this passage tonight?

[Powerpoint 6-Lessons]

1. God is serious about sin - and it must be dealt with - by death - Romans 3:23 and

Romans 6:23

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. The greatness of God's love for us - He had a perfect rescue plan - see Romans 5:6-9 and 1 John 4:9-10

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

3. If Jesus suffered - we can expect to suffer too - see 1 Peter 4:12-19 and 1 Peter 2:21-25

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but

praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Suffering for Jesus' sake - Christians call that carrying our cross - because Jesus told us to carry our cross - see Matthew 16:24-26

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

Q & A

Let's pray...