

Mosaic Teaching Guide

Teaching Series: *Journey to the Cross*

Teaching Six: *Jesus is Crucified*

John 19.16b-30

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Question for Everyone: How good is your memory? Are you (1) the kind of person that has to write everything down because you will surely forget or are you (10) the kind of person who remembers things with photographic accuracy?

Introduction: Palm/Passion Sunday

"John wants us, not to be fixated on the implementation of death so much, as the efficacy and power of this moment." How would you respond to the simple question of why Jesus died? How would you explain Jesus' death to someone relatively new to the Christian faith?

The Enthronement of Jesus

“The crucifixion is the revelation of Jesus’ power of non-coercive love. . . . As Jesus is lifted up on the cross, the way God exercises God’s authority is revealed. . . . Jesus, like all crucified criminals, is lifted up and John wants us to know that in this moment, we see what it looks like when God is enthroned in the world.” How does the way the God of Christ exercises authority shape the way Christians exercise authority? How might this shape the life the way a Christian boss exercise authority or a parent?

“Jesus hangs there on the cross with Pilates joke over his head, “Here he is, the King of the Jews” for all the world to read. And the irony of this story is millions upon millions of people have taken Pilate’s joke seriously.” Why do so many people believe this rather unbelievable story?

The Creation of a New Family

“And I think part of what we’re seeing here is Jesus, himself creating this new family, creating a seamless garment that no violence can separate. . . . Brothers and sisters gathered by Jesus in the shadow of the cross, loving one another, caring for one another, with the basin and towel of Christ in hand. This is John’s ecclesiology.” So, what do you think of John’s vision for the church? Is this just an ancient ideal that we should never aspire to live into or should we at least give it a go?

The Giving of the Spirit

“In John’s gospel it seems to me that theories of atonement, take a back seat to empowerment. That is, Jesus dies so as to make his His Spirit present to all who gather at the foot of the cross so as to create a family by His Spirit.” Have you ever connected the giving of the Spirit directly to the crucifixion? How does this inform your understanding of the Holy Spirit? What about this matter of creating a new family by the spirit? Do you think that Jesus’ declaration about Mary and the Beloved Disciple are Jesus’ way of knitting a new family together?