

Jesus Christ Wants to Be with Us (March 1, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

Scripture 1: Mark 15:16-41

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called ^[c]Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. ¹⁷ And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His *head*, ¹⁸ and began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

The King on a Cross

²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. ²² And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³ Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take *it*. ²⁴ And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them *to determine* what every man should take.

²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His ^[d]accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ ^[e]So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.”

²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and ^[f]believe.”

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

Jesus Dies on the Cross

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, “Look, He is calling for Elijah!” ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, “Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.”

³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that ^[g]He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

***The Lord Jesus went through all of that to be with us...

Scripture 2: Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean *thing*,
And all our righteousnesses *are* like ^[a]filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.

***We are all dirty compared to God's perfection.

Yet even though we often make Him sad, the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, still wants to live inside of us as followers of Jesus Christ...

Scripture 3: 1 Corinthians 6:18-30

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body ^[g]and in your spirit, which are God's.

***The Father gave the most precious gift He could give to save us, the gift of His Son.

Scripture 4: John 3:16-21

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

***Sometimes we get a lot of vegetables when we come to church, but today I felt strongly that the Lord Jesus wanted me to encourage...

He wanted me to give you comfort...

He wants me to let you know that He wants the very best for you...

And that very best is just being with Him

Scripture 5: Psalm 16:5-11

O LORD, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You ^[b]maintain my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My ^[c]heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will ^[d]rest in hope.

¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in ^[e]Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to ^[f]see corruption.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

***So our response:

Try to want to be with the Lord Jesus as much as He wants to be with us...

1) ***We need to draw near to Him...

Scripture 6: James 4:7-10

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Remember that drawing near to God includes both praying and studying the Word of God

Scripture 7: Hosea 4:6-7

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;
Because you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

⁷ “The more they increased,
The more they sinned against Me;
I^[c] will change ^[d]their glory into shame.

We also must do what we hear in prayer and what we learn when we study the Word of God.

Scripture 8: James 2:14-20

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without ^[f]your works, and I will show you my faith by ^[g]my works. ¹⁹ You

believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is ^[h]dead?

Scripture 9: Proverbs 18:2, 7-9

A fool has no delight in understanding,
But in expressing his own heart.

A fool's mouth *is* his destruction,
And his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

⁸ The words of a ^[b]talebearer *are* like ^[c]tasty trifles,
And they go down into the ^[d]inmost body.

⁹ He who is slothful in his work
Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

***Make the Lord Jesus our refuge...

Scripture 10: Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are ^[e]safe.

Scripture 11: Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "*He is my refuge and my fortress;*
My God, in Him I will trust."