

## The Messy Side of Gods Love

### I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Women's Xmas Celebration** - Kelly wants to **thank** all the ladies who helped in any way to make yesterday possible. Whether you **decorated, baked, cleaned, or prayed Thank You.** And special thanks to the team of **men** who worked all day to help the ladies. We couldn't have done it without you.
- B. **Children at Risk** - Next Sun 3-5pm. Planning Conf.
- C. **Prayer: Jesus, 1st** You **left it all.** Then **gave it all & paid it all.** So You can now **offer it all.**

### II. **Intro:**

- A. **Slide#2 Title: The Messy Side of Gods Love**
- B. **Outline: The Pavement That Preaches; The Baby Shower Gift That Now Makes Sense; The Magi's Title Now Used.**

### III. Slide#3 **THE PAVEMENT THAT PREACHES (16-20)**

- A. **This is** where it all got messy. **This is** the bloody Pavement in *The Passion of the Christ* where Jesus was wiped almost to death.
- B. The Roman ritual of condemnation went like this.
  1. **Slide#4**The judge would say ***Illum duci ad crucem placet*** [this man should be taken to a cross]
  2. **Then,** he turned to the guard & said, ***I miles expedi crucem*** [Go soldier, prepare the cross]<sup>1</sup>
    - a) **It was when the cross was being prepared that** Jesus was in the hands of the soldiers.
- C. **Slide#5 Praetorium** – The governor's headquarters. In the courtyard.
  1. NW corner of the Temple area, at **the Tower of Antonia**, on the east side of the city. **They discovered in excavations a large pavement area.**
    - a) Jn.19:13 **When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.**
    - b) When you visit, you can even see **a game** chipped into one of the Paving stones.
  2. **Here they play the Comic King** [A game of cat & mouse]
    - a) Remember He had already went through **the scourging before** this horse-play began.
    - b) **To them** Jesus was only another man for a cross, & they carried their barrack-room pantomime of royalty & worship, **not** w/any malice, **but** as a coarse jest.
      - (1) No, the malice comes later...*from His own.* :(
      - (2) **The Crown** - preaches a message...*Here stands Jesus wearing the consequences of Adam's sin* (Adam's fall brought the thorns).

<sup>1</sup> William Barclay, pg.358,359.

c) All in a days work for the soldiers – But not every day did they have one that claimed to be King – So to relieve some boredom, a few minutes entertainment at Jesus’ expense.

3. **Struck him on the head** - most likely to drive the sharp thorns onto His brow.

a) Show thorns from Israel.

b) The **crown of thorns** a cruel *caricature* of the wreath worn by the emperor.

(1) **Slide#6** The **physical sufferings of Christ** have always been, and will remain, *a window through which we see...the heart of God.*

D. Our Lord quietly suffered & never fought back.

1. A lesson **Mark’s readers** would need to learn as they faced **official persecution**.

E. **Slide#7** This place, this Pavement **still** preaches:

1. Our Jewish Tour guide - *I never heard that it wasn’t the Jews fault or the soldiers, but that we EACH put Jesus on the cross. WE are to blame.*

2. I had asked Greg G **What struck you?** The cost; the value of me. [It’s the messy side of God’s love]

3. I had asked Zach, **What struck you?** It sunk in, not only where we were but what He did.

#### IV. **Slide#8 THE BABY SHOWER GIFT THAT NOW MAKES SENSE (21-23)**

A. According to law, the guilty victim had to **carry his cross**, **or** at least **the cross beam**, to the place of execution, & Jesus was no exception.

1. He left **Pilate’s hall** bearing His cross.

B. Here we have the long walk down the **Via Dolorosa**, *i.e. road of sorrows*.

1. **Slide#9** Chrysostom saw prophetic fulfillment in this, seeing it as parallel to **Isaac’s bearing the wood** for his own sacrifice to Mt. Moriah.

a) Gen.22:6 **So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.**

2. **And so**, Jesus is off to **Jerusalem’s killing fields**.

C. **Slide#10** (21) **Simon of Cyrene** - [**Cyrene** = N. Africa, between Carthage & Egypt]

1. Simon came to Jerusalem to **celebrate the Passover**; **and** ended up **meeting the Passover...Lamb**.

2. The next time **your plans** are **interrupted** & you have to **carry another’s cross**, remember what **Simon** did for **Jesus** **and** what **Jesus** did for **Simon**.

D. **Slide#11** (23) **Wine mingled w/Myrrh** (resin/powder)

1. To drug w/Myrrh. In accordance w/Jewish customs based on Prov 31:6, this was given to *dull the senses*. Give strong drink to him who is **perishing**, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.
  - a) It was an **acceptable anesthetic** to deaden physical pain, or deep emotional bitterness.
2. The Babylonian Talmud says that “**respected women appointed themselves to provide condemned victims w/a narcotic, pain-reducing drink before execution.**” *But Jesus refused it...*
3. **He would not** have His senses dulled.
4. **He wanted** to be in full possession of His faculties **as** He did the Fathers will.
5. **He would** accomplish the work of Redemption.
6. **He would** enter fully into His sufferings, on our behalf.
7. **He would** take no shortcuts.
8. **He refused the cup of sympathy** so that He might better drink **the cup of iniquity**.

- E. **Slide#12** At **Christmas time** we’re reminded of the gifts of **gold, frankincense, myrrh** [king/priest/prophet]
1. **Myrrh** was **received** at His birth, **denied** at His death. [simply pointed to His death]
    - a) Finally, that **strange baby shower gift** makes sense.

## V. **Slide#13 THE MAGIS TITLE NOW USED (24-32)**

### A. **Slide#14 The King of the Jews (26)**

1. The Jews repeatedly asked Pilate to change the sign (Jn.19:21,22). Finally Pilate stands for something & says, “**What I have written I have written**” or “**what I have written will always remain written.**”
  - a) Oh, *an eternal truth* Mr. Pilate...for He is a **King**.
  - b) During Jesus’ infancy **the Magi** came from the East heralding Him as **King**.
  - c) **Now**, His **royal title** is fixed to His cross.
    - (1) And 1 day when He returns it will be emblazoned on **His robe and** on **His thigh** a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.
  - d) **A King** - (1) at His **crib** (2) on His **cross** (3) definitely on that day of His **coronation**.

### B. **Slide#15** 9am...*and they crucified Him*. (25)

1. **So brief** - Mark’s readers knew what a crucifixion entailed...they saw them all the time. **(no reason to explain)**

### C. **Slide#16** Lewis Bayly’s 17th century devotional handbook, *Practice of Piety*. (ends w/a dialogue in which **Christ** explains to a **soul** the meaning of the cross) [I modernized it]

1. **Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be taken, when You might have escaped Your enemies?**

2. **Christ:** So your enemies wouldn't take you, & cast you into the prison of utter darkness.
3. Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be bound?
4. **Christ:** So that I might loose the chains of your iniquities.
5. Soul: Lord, why did you allow Yourself to be lifted up on a cross?
6. **Christ:** So that I might lift you up with Me to heaven.
7. Soul: Lord, why were Your **hands** nailed to the cross?
8. **Christ:** To enlarge your hands to do works of righteousness.
9. Soul: Lord, why were Your **feet** nailed to the cross?
10. **Christ:** To set your feet free to walk in the ways of peace.
11. Soul: Lord, why were Your **arms** nailed stretched out wide?
12. **Christ:** That I might embrace you more lovingly, My sweet soul.
13. Soul: Lord, why were Your **side** opened with a spear?
14. **Christ:** That you might have a way to come near to My heart.

D. **Slide#17** (27,28) **Numbered w/the transgressors** - This was a symbol of **His whole life**, even in His death He still companied Himself w/sinners. :)

E. (29) Thomas Carlyle called *ridicule...the language of the devil*. Here, it was so true.

1. They mocked Him as **Prophet**(29); as **Savior**(31); as **King**(32).

F. (30) **Save Yourself** - And be careful of the worlds whispers:

1. **Slide#18** The devil told Jesus, **serve Yourself** (Mt.4:3,4)
2. Peter said, **pity Yourself** (Mt.16:21-23)
3. His unsaved relatives said, **show Yourself** (Jn.7:4)
4. The world said, **defend Yourself** but Jesus was silent (1-5).
5. The world said, **pamper Yourself** but Jesus refused the drug (23).
6. The crowd at Calvary said, **save Yourself** but Jesus remained on the cross & finished the work the Father gave him to do (v.30). Adapted from Warren Wiersbe pg.664,665

a) **Slide#19** Jesus was deaf to all those appeals & **gave Himself**.

- (1) Starting as **a baby...He gave Himself**. Continuing w/**a perfect life...He gave Himself**. Culminating on **His cross...He gave Himself**. Today, as **our mediator & interceder...He still gives Himself**.

G. (31) **He saved others; Himself He could not save** –

1. It is precisely because He **did not** save Himself, that He was able to save others.

2. It is possible that their sarcastic *He saved others*, may have encouraged the one thief to trust Him.
- H. (32) One last challenge, *Come down from the cross & we will believe in You*.
1. General Booth said long ago, *It is because Jesus **did not** come down from the Cross that we believe in him*.
- I. *Slide#20 While man was doing his **worse**...God was doing His **best***.
- J. **1st** see Jesus as **Sufferer** (observe His great love **for you**).  
**2nd** see Jesus as **Sovereign** (behold the King & **His demands**. *Repent & Believe*).  
**3rd** see Jesus as your **Substitute** (**ask** Jesus to take your sins **for you**).
1. 1 Pet.2:24 *He bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed*.
- K. The Pavement: *The Messy Side of Gods Love*.
- L. **Communion:**
1. Philip Yancey said, “No cell, lies more than a hair’s breath, from a blood capillary.”
    - a) *Therefore, your blood* is quick to cleanse *any & every cell*.
    - b) *Christ’s blood* is even quicker to cleanse and drive out *any* and *every sin*.