

Double Cure

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: ThanksgivingEve. 2bOffice. Women's Xmas. Giving Tree.
- B. Slide5,6 Christmas Catalog.
- C. Slide7 Prayer: Lord, we cherish the old rugged cross. That emblem of suffering and shame. So **despised** by the world, has a **wondrous attraction** for me.

II. Slide8 Intro: Double Cure

- A. Jn.1-12 *ch. 's*, 33-ish years of Jesus' life. Jn.13-21 His last week on this blue planet.
- B. All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell is terribly afraid of it.
- C. Big Idea: *Can I know the truth? Yes, through eye witness accounts & prophecy.*
 - 1. Eye witness account: *Read* 19:35-37
 - 2. Slide9a Prophecy: we'll be reading through a handful of them this morning.
 - a) Is.46:9,10 *nlt Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.*
 - 3. The Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense. The bible is divine rather than human in origin.
 - 4. Slide9b More than 25% of all material in scripture was prophetic at the time it was written.
 - a) Some of these prophecies were made 1500 years before their fulfillment.
 - 5. Bible Prophecies dare to make predictions against cities, large cities & even Mega-Power Nations. (eg. Babylon; Ninevah; Tyre; Sidon; Edom; Sodom & Gomorrah)
 - a) Daniel took *ch's* to describe the next Power Nations...in order. *Babylon. Medes & Persians. Greece. Rome.*
 - 6. King Cyrus (Is.44:28-45:1) Isaiah is writing in 710bc & names Cyrus as one God will command to rebuild Jerusalem & the foundation of the Temple shall be laid.
 - a) What is amazing is at the time of this prophecy, the city was strong & not yet destroyed & the Temple was a landmark & still standing. Their destruction didn't

take place for **100 years**. The Prophecy was fulfilled 160 years later, in 539bc when a Persian King named **Cyrus** took Jerusalem away from Babylon.

7. Remember a true prophet had to be 100% accurate, 100% of the time.
 - a) There were 100's of specific messianic prophecies written **before** Jesus was born which He fulfilled perfectly. And many prophecies are *beyond human manipulation* (like Jesus' ancestry).

III. Slide10a **THE PITY OF JESUS (25-27)** [Pity = the feeling of sorrow & compassion for others]

- A. We start w/a **contrast**: these soldiers did these *terrible things*, **but** standing by the cross were these courageous women.
- B. (25-27) The words Jesus uses, *here is your son...here is your mother*, are reminiscent of legal adoption formulae/s.
- C. Giving John & Mary to each other, Christ was breaking the *earthly ties* of family.
 1. **Her silence** is proof that *Jesus is God's Son*, for 1 word from her could have saved Jesus, *He's not God!* - Because who knows a **son** better than the **mother** who bore him?
 2. It was Christ who controlled the situation, **not** Mary. **Yet** we admire Mary's devotion in **coming to the cross**.
 - a) Mary now feeling the hilt of the blade that Simeon prophesied way back at his birth
 - b) Slide10b Behold, this Child is destined for the fall & rising of many in Israel, & for a sign which will be spoken against *yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also*.¹
 3. Every mother fears losing a child. It seemed **death** had *perched on Jesus' crib* since His birth. [i.e. the terror of Herod's assassination plot on the baby]
 4. Slide10c Did **she** pray to **the Father** that death would come *quickly* to her son...or, their Son? **Both** would lose a child today. **Both** would bear the blade in their breast.²
 5. I'm sure she couldn't bear to **watch** and couldn't bear to **turn away**.

¹ Lk.2:34,35

² Ken Gire; Intimate Moments with the Savior; pg. 116.

6. She was there when He **came into** the world & she'd be there when He **left**.

IV. Slide11a **THE PASSING OF JESUS (28-30)** *Jesus Death*

- A. (29) **Hyssop Branch** - In Ex.12:22 *the hyssop branch* was used to smear the Passover Lambs blood on the doorposts.
1. **Now** symbolic of Jesus' role as **the Passover Lamb**. **God the Father** will **pass over** people's sins because **Jesus' blood** is present. **As a sacrifice**, He carried the weight of their sins in His death.
- B. **Slide11b (30) It is finished** - Jesus is most likely quoting the last verse in Ps.22. [Ps.22, 7x's]
1. Ps.22:31 *they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.*
 2. **That he has done it** - The Hebrew phrase here, **כִּי עָשָׂה** *ki asah*, can be understood as *"for it is done."*
- C. **It is finished (tetelestai)** - a familiar word in that day.
1. **Slide11c** What will you **yell** when you make your **final** college payment or house mortgage payment? That's what Jesus is yelling here. *What???* Yep, this was a **Bankers term** that was used when the **final payment** had been made on a debt.
 - a) **Jesus** completely **paid the debt** we owed & it will be *remembered against us* no more, **forever**.
 - b) **And John** uses the Greek **perfect tense**, which indicates *a completed action that has continuing results*. [It is accomplished]
 2. It is the cry of a conqueror [**a cry of victory** in the hour of **defeat**]
 3. **Slide11d** We can sum up the difference of all other religions, the diff comes down to **2 letters**: All religions area religion of **DO**, **ours** is a religion of **DONE!**
- D. **So it is finished...What is?**
1. I have Fulfilled all **Prophecies** concerning My 1st Advent (like, 355 of them). I have Completed all My **Sufferings**. I have Reached the **Goal** of My Incarnation. I have Accomplished My **Sacrifice & My Atonement**. I have Dealt with all of **your Sins**. I have Fulfilled all of **the Laws** Requirements.

And, I have **Disarmed Satan's Power**.

V. Slide12a **THE PIERCING OF JESUS' BODY (31-37)**

- A. (31) **The Preparation Day** - always remember when you want to kill God, *never mess up the religious holidays*.
1. So **calloused** in their killing of the Savior, **yet so careful** in their keeping of the Sabbath.
 2. Slide12b Deut.21:22,23 *And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.*
- B. Slide12c (32) The smashing of the lower leg bones was called in Latin the *cruri-fragium* (crus/leg; fragium/fracture).
1. This caused death to occur fairly quickly by shock, loss of blood, and inability to breathe (the chest cavity would bear the pressure of the body's weight after the legs were broken).
 2. Without this procedure, a person could live for many hours or even days. This *crurifragium* was done to the 2 thieves on each side of Jesus.
- C. (33) We have 1st the unbiased opinion, from these unbelieving roman soldiers, was that he was *already dead*. (not swoon theory, He didn't faint, wasn't in a coma, **He died!**)
1. **But not only human opinion. The next verse gives undeniable evidence of death...**
- D. (34) **Blood & water** - *the Word* really did *become flesh* (not a phantom).
1. Science tells us the presence of **these 2 elements** was evidence that there had been **heart rupture** (i.e. the piercing of **the sac** that surrounds the heart *pericardium* & the heart itself. **The dark red corpuscles & the thin whiteish serum** of the blood, here called *water*).
 - a) The **our Lord** truly did die of *a broken heart*.

2. Slide12d Others call it the **Double-Cure**: blood to atone, water to purify & cleanse.
 3. He bowed his head (30) that we might lift ours up to greet the eternal morning.
 4. But not only human opinion & undeniable evidence. The next verse gives John's eyewitness account...
- E. (35) And it is a **factual eyewitness account** of John.
1. I was there. I saw it. Giving us first-hand evidence.
 2. Slide12e Can I know the truth? Yes, through eye witness accounts & prophecy.
- F. (37) John records 3 of the 7 statements from the cross. So far John noted the fulfillment of Scripture in...
1. The gambling for the seamless robe (Ps.22:18). The giving of the sour wine (Ps.69:21). The piercing of His side w/o breaking any bones (Ps.34:20; Ex.12:46)
 2. Note, however, that v.37 **does not say** Zech.12:10 was fulfilled because he was pierced, rather that they will look upon Him in a future day when He returns in glory. Rev.1:7 **Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.**
 3. Every detail about the crucifixion was carefully worked out by the hand of God.

VI. Slide13a THE PREPARING OF JESUS' BODY (38-41)

- A. When most of His disciples were nowhere to be found, **2 men** who had been afraid to declare their allegiance up to this point came forward **boldly** to care for the body of Christ
1. These were **friends** of Jesus. And if there was even the faintest pulse of life they would have made every effort to **resuscitate** Him, **not embalm** Him.
 - a) Friends don't mummify living friends! Especially w/75 lbs of mixture, aloes & strips of cloth.
- B. Slide13b F.B.Meyer, Remember that wherever the cross of Jesus is erected, **whether** in the **soul** for the daily crucifixion of the flesh, or in the **life** by self-sacrifice for others,

gardens will inevitably bloom.³

- C. Slide13c Many criticize Joseph & Nicodemus for being *hidden disciples*.
1. But look how God used them to accomplish His purposes.
 2. Had their **faith** been **known openly**, they would have been **prevented** by the council from caring for the body of Jesus.
 3. And when Joseph and Nicodemus touched the dead body of Christ, they *defiled themselves* for the Passover. *But they didn't care, for they had come to trust in the Lamb of God Himself.*
 - a) They had kept their relationship with Him in the shadows. They most likely feared the controversy & the consequences of making their faith public. **But now that Jesus is dead, a new boldness** emerges in their lives.
 - b) This is the hour of **late blooming love** that draws them *out of the shadows*... to fearlessly befriend their Savior. **How about you?**

VII. Slide14a THE PLACING OF JESUS' BODY (42)

- A. Then he was **entombed**. Matthew's account lets us know he was placed in the **cave-like tomb**. Then a large stone lie in front of the door. A Roman guard placed out front. Then sealed by Rome's own seal.
- B. The Lamb of God had given His life for the sins of the world. His work on earth was finished, and He **rested on the Sabbath**.
 1. Slide14b **Wait**, John says to us. *Watch with me through this sabbath, this quiet, sad rest. Wait for this, the final day, the 7th day, to pass. God rested on the 7th day. So must Jesus. But this whole book has been about new creation... Wait for the eighth day.*⁴ N.T.Wright

³ F.B.Meyer; Bible Commentary; pg.477

⁴ Wright, T. (2004). John for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 11-21 (pp. 128–139). London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.