

John 19v17- 42 (part 1)
 18th November 2018 am Hill and Arcadia
The 3 R's of the crucifixion

When talking about **children's education**, the 3 R's are the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic.

In the **modern world of education** at schools or university any person who does not have a measure of competence in the basic skill of reading, writing and arithmetic will find meaningful progress in their further education somewhat difficult.

In the same way that the 3 R's of education are crucial to advanced learning, we can extract from what happens to and with Jesus on this day of His crucifixion and apply **3 R's basic and crucial** to the saving work of Jesus.

The 3 R's of the crucifixion:

- Requirements fulfilled
- Redemption accomplished
- Response revealed

In the remaining 3 weeks of this year before I go on leave I plan to **focus one by one** on each of these aspects of what took place on that day we have come to call "Good Friday".

And so to begin with look with me at

1 Requirements fulfilled

To clarify our understanding on this matter I believe it is helpful to **zoom out** from our immediate context in *John 19* and take a glimpse at...

1.1 The big picture of world history

In any **theatrical performance** each participant knows their place and timing in the unfolding sequence of the story.

Each actor or actress knows to **wait for their cue** before they step forward onto the stage and do what they are required to do to give meaning to what is being done.

The coming of Jesus into the world, onto the stage of history at the time He did was of God's plan and design.

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

In the order required in God's plan as spoken of the Isaiah the prophet, **John the Baptist** comes before Jesus

Matthew 3:1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Each participant has a part to play **at a specific time**. Mary is still a virgin and engaged to Joseph when they are informed about God's plan; that *Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*

But before that in the time line there is **Zechariah** is ...*Luke 1:8ff serving as priest before God, when his division was on duty... he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense; ...and there appeared to him an angel of the Lord...*

Elizabeth is barren until God opens her womb for John the Baptist to be born. **Each piece** of the puzzle has a place to fit with each piece put in place at the required time.

Timing is on the mind of Jesus at **the wedding in Cana** when he responds to His mother regarding the wine that had run out ...*John 2:4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."*

As the **time of suffering** for Jesus draws closer, Jesus pours His heart out to His Father... *John 12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour.*

Jesus is aware that there is a specific plan and time table that God is unfolding. He knows and **patiently waits** for the right timing of each step He takes

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

He then after the long sermon to His disciples turns to His Father **in prayer** acknowledging that the final hour is now imminent.

John 17:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,

My point being that in **the big scheme of world history**, God's plan with Jesus is:

- Deliberate in **action** in what He and others are to do? There is no doubt as to what Jesus and others are required to do. Each one has a specific role they are to fill
- Precise with its **timing** as to when He and others are to do what they are supposed to do. There is a strict time table in the unfolding of this God orchestrated plan.

And so, when John writes his account of the crucifixion, **Jesus is described** as *John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished...* Everything that was required by God (as given in Scripture) to be done was done.

Having glanced at this bigger picture of God's unfolding plan, John's statement about Jesus knowing all was now finished prepares us to **zoom back in** and consider...

1.2 The detail of the crucifixion

There is in our passage a sequence of statements signalling **the fulfilment** of Scriptural prophetic detail...

John 19:24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things,

John 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."

John 19:36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."

John 19:37 And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

The experience of Jesus on the road to the cross and on the cross was following a course that had been **mapped out beforehand in the OT**.

Everything **God had revealed and required** concerning His plan of accomplishing salvation was reaching its culmination in these dark hours on the cross.

As Jesus makes that final journey towards His death, **no detail is accidental**; it is God's script (OT) that the people should have seen and that Jesus knows is God's plan.

Everything is flavoured with meaning that can be seen in **OT teaching and practice**...

One aspect of the punishment imposed on the vilest criminals, was that they should **carry their own cross** when they went to execution.

And so, as Jesus "*bearing His own cross (19:17)* to be crucified; in the public eye He is identified as a despicable guilty criminal; that there is the immediate echo of the covenant **curse of God** resting on Him.

He is a **condemned man** about to be hanged on the cross He is carrying.

Deuteronomy 21:23 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.

In the fullest sense Jesus was **considered** (reckoned) **a sinner**, and counted a curse for our sakes.

Jesus taking up His cross and carrying it to the place of execution **outside of the city walls** is also the fulfilment of the '*sin offering*' required in the Mosaic Law.

Leviticus 16:27 And the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp.

Little did these blinded Jews imagine, when they madly hounded on the Romans to crucify Jesus outside the gates, that they were unconsciously perfecting the **mightiest sin offering** that was ever seen.

Hebrews 13:11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned 'outside the camp'. 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

When Jesus is crucified, although He is among thieves, there is a public record that He is crucified as a "king"; and as such it is **God's Anointed One** who suffers.

Peter and John quote *Psalm 2* in *Acts 4:26* of how *the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and His Anointed. V27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against you Holy Servant Jesus, who you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and plan had predestined to take place.*

Right down to the point where **His clothing** is taken from Him and divided amongst the soldiers (*19:24*), the OT echo is heard. This time from the cries of David in *Psalm 22:18*.

The terrible sufferings of Jesus are **the fulfilment** of the greatest purpose the world has ever known; the purpose of God in salvation. Sin is punished and the wrath of God is satisfied.

In His life Jesus had fulfilled all righteousness on behalf of His people, now in His death he was making **perfect atonement** for their sins.

Everything was complete, God's just **requirements** for salvation were being satisfied.

2 Implications

Why is the fulfilment of God's requirements **so basic and crucial** to the saving work of Jesus and its impact on you?

2.1 It leads us in humble worship of God

Without Jesus fulfilling God's requirements for the atonement of sin you and I remain in serious trouble with God.

But since God's requirements have been met; there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **You then** as a believer should be moved in humble worship of God.

Not only is there the benefit and blessing of access to God (enabling us to be reconciled to God) because of the substitutionary atoning work of Jesus; but **we see so much of the glory of God** in this culminating hour of suffering that Jesus willingly endured.

The requirements of God fulfilled on the road to Calvary reveals the sovereign **power of God** in executing and orchestrating this redemption plan over millennia.

It exposes the great and steadfast **love of God** for the world in sending His Son so that men and women do not perish in their sin.

The suffering of Jesus reveals the uncompromised holiness of God, the righteous justice of God, the indescribable mercy of God, the amazing grace of God, the unity of God...

As you contemplate **the suffering of Jesus** in the light of all the requirements fulfilled you should be moved in awe of God in worship and in praise.

2.2 It leads us in sacrificial discipleship

As I considered the fact that Jesus willingly took up His cross, knowing beforehand **the suffering** He was to be subjected to, in fulfilling every prophesy given in this regard...

That along with **what follows in the passage** I referred to from *Hebrews 13:12* speaking of Jesus who *suffered outside the gate order to sanctify the people through his own blood...*

I was challenged regarding **the way I follow Jesus**. *Hebrews 13:13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.*

Much of the call to follow Jesus in our day is about how God makes **my life more comfortable**. Multiple mega churches are being established on "feel good" selective discipleship. The message is "follow Jesus and see what He will do for you".

Jesus suffered being reckoned as a curse for us and Jesus endured **the reproach** of the crowds. He was despised and rejected by men.

True discipleship is a call to go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

The good reason for that kind of discipleship is that here in this world we have no lasting city. We seek the city that is to come.

That kind of **discipleship** is more in keeping with Jesus' teaching in...

Luke 9:23 If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and “take up his cross daily” and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself, 26 For whoever is ashamed of me and my words of him will the Son of man be ashamed when He comes in His glory and the glory of the Father and of the Holy angels...

What cross are you called upon to take up daily as you follow Jesus?

- Is it that you have to **remain single** because there are no godly men or women available? And you know God does not want you to marry the godless men out there who can't tolerate your love and commitment to Jesus.
- Or is it that **people exclude you** because your lifestyle is of a manner that is out of step with what is promiscuously cool and popular.
- Or is it that you **accept the Bible** as authoritative in all matters of life and faith, convicting you to stand up against the sexual revolution, religious revolution, moral revolution, parenting revolution and the political revolution
- Or is it accepting and trusting God even if you can't **get a job** or you may lose your land because you have a white skin
- Or is it that you need to refuse to **let the bitter root** of unforgiveness grow and instead forgive people for the sins committed during apartheid
- Or is it the need to **show grace** to those who wiped out the rest of your family in Rwanda...
- Or is that every day you have to **deny your desires** so as to not indulge the sinful nature because you want to please the Lord

Dear friends **taking up your cross daily** and following Jesus, as One who suffered infinitely more severely than you or I could ever imagine, is not about selective discipleship or self-indulgent living.

Its all or nothing.

Thanks be to God for Jesus who willing suffered but in so doing **fulfilled** every detail God required at just the right time and in so doing accomplished salvation for hopeless sinners.