God's Love & Wrath At The Cross

Tommy Peeler · Matthew 26

INTRODUCTION

- These are the central events in human history.
- The wrath of God and the love of God meet at the cross in a way that God both judges sin and yet at the same time saves sinners.

1 Betrayal and the Cup in Gethsemane

Matthew 26:14–16; Matthew 26:39; Hebrews 5:7

- Here is one in the closest conceivable relationship with Jesus who is going to betray him for 30 pieces of silver.
- But here Jesus is drinking the cup that the wicked drink.
- But truly, Jesus is bearing the weight of your sin and mine.
- We must understand that our Savior is going to the cross not out of weakness, but in spite of strength.

2 The Trial of Jesus

John 18:13; Matthew 26:59–66; Luke 23:2

- They have already decided the verdict is death. They are simply looking for some charge to pin on Jesus.
- I adjure you by the living God, you tell us, are you the Christ, the Son of God? And he said, I am.
- And yet at the moment that seems like it's a defeat, he is actually winning his greatest victory.
- He doesn't even have the courage to say to this woman who couldn't get him in trouble if she wanted to. Yes, I'm a disciple.
- Three times in Luke's gospel, he says that this man has done nothing worthy of death. And yet each time he lacks the courage to simply let Jesus go.

3 Led Out to Calvary to Be Crucified

Deuteronomy 21:22–23; Galatians 3:13; 1 Corinthians 1:23

- Crucifixion was meant to prolong the pain, to prolong the suffering of the victim as much as it could possibly be done.
- In Deuteronomy 21, verses 22 and 23, the Bible says, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.
- He's going to do something better than coming down. He's going to rise up from the grave.
- The centurion can see what the religious leaders can't. Truly, this man was the Son of God.

4 How Grotesque Sin Is

Acts 10:38

- Nothing quite shows us how horrible sin is, like the cross.

- This man who never sinned and had never done anything wrong, is taken and he's beaten and he's mocked and he's ridiculed and he's killed, that is what my sin led to, and that's what your sin led to.
- If you think sin is no big deal, if you think sin is just a minor thing, look at the cross.
- But no, you can't just talk your way through. Not from a God who put his son through this.

5 The Cross Shows the Depth of God's Love

John 15:13; Romans 5:6–8; 1 John 4:9–10

- And the cross shows us the depth of the love of God.
- God demonstrates his love toward us. And that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- The cross is the preeminent display not only of the wrath of God against sin, but it is a preeminent display of the depth of God's love.
- In the cross of Christ, truly, the wrath of God and the love of God meet.

6 Not the Death of Jesus, the Resurrection

Matthew 28:2–4; 1 Corinthians 15:55–57; 1 Thessalonians 4

- How the gospels end. Not the death of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus.
- Why do you seek the living with the dead? He is not here, but he has risen.
- O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin. The strength of sin is a law. But thanks be to God who gives a victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you willing to say, I'm not going to walk in my sins anymore? I'm going to turn from my sins. I'm going to turn to him. Repent of your sins, and be baptized into Jesus Christ to have your sins washed away.

MY NOTES