

*Introduction:* Pg. \_\_\_\_ (Soccer Nights Celebrate: Amazing Week! Introduce Laurel Matheisen and Zion Bennett)

Some of you who have been keeping up your “FRIEND” on social media know that I’ve roped a few friends into a major project over the past month.

## **DECK PIC.**

I’ve had a great time teaching these guys how to build a deck. Deck Story... Rikety stairs.... Priced it out... Reddy, PJ, I am not a handy man... We may have had one or two near blunders. Maybe... There might have been a video posted on Facebook that shows me taking 25 seconds to hammer a nail.

- We feel good about a job well done, whether it is a major home project or that small tinge of satisfaction when you walk out of the office or off the job site after a good day’s work, because God made us to work. God is a working God, and he made us to be like him.
- When Jesus came into our world, he came on a mission; he came with work to accomplish. This work would be the greatest work ever performed when he finished his work on the cross.
- In the cross, we come to the epicenter of the Christian story. It is so central, that the key leader of early church said: “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (1 Corinthians 2:2) In other words, my whole life and everything that I see is influenced and pointing me toward what Jesus did there.
- Our greatest need is to understand, embrace, and live in light of the

### **“Finished Work” of Jesus John 18:28-19:42**

As we look at Christ finishing his greatest work, I want to invite us to BEHOLD...

## **The Point: Behold the cross work of Christ the King.**

This is where this Book of John, one of Jesus closest followers, began with the words of John the Baptist, a man who got the people ready for Jesus’ arrival: **“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29)** Now, this is where it ends. We find the same statement from the Roman Governor, Pilate: **“Behold the man!” (John 19:5)**

To behold is to take a long, intense look, and I want to invite you to do that very thing this morning as we look at who Jesus is, what he did, and what that to do with us.

*Let’s begin by reading 18:22-19:16a*

John weaves this narrative around the claim that Jesus is a King.

- Since the days of King David [in the 10th century B.C.], the Jewish people were expecting God to send them a King that would bring perfect & permanent justice to all people. They referred to this one they expected as the Messiah, or Anointed One.
- They wanted a King because kings are powerful; they get things done. BUT they also wanted a benevolent king that would lead, guide, protect and provide for them.

- Kind of like us... we don't really want someone telling us what to do, unless that person knew what was best for us in every case and actually had the power to bring it about. Meet Jesus.
- But Jesus didn't look like a king. Look at the words of Pilate in verse 33: "Are *you* the king of the Jews?" as if Pilate is saying: "I don't see someone who looks like a king in front of me."
- This was the charge brought against Jesus. He is "misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." (Luke 23:2)

T: Jesus affirms his kingship before Pilate, but what kind of King is he? This story gives us 3 answers.

## I. Behold Jesus, the Crucified King of Renewal.

- In *verse 36* Jesus describes what his kingdom is like in negative terms.
- In other words, "My kingdom is not a political kingdom in that I am seeking to establish my kingdom through militaristic power. In fact, my kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my friends would take up arms and fight to protect me."
- The kingdoms of the world typically spread through the sword, but Jesus' kingdom spreads through renewal and peace.
- The overarching story of the Bible tells us that God made the world perfect, good, and whole, but through our forsaking God and going our own way, distortion, division, and brokenness entered our world. Why is the world we live in so riddled with pain and suffering? This is why.
- But Jesus came to harmony to our distortion, unity to our division, and healing to our brokenness. He came to bring comprehensive renewal to our world.
- It is ironic that Jesus, in the moment they are killing him, says: "I'm the king of peace."
- This why we get so jacked up about the gospel. Jesus accomplishes this through his death on the cross. He brings broken things together and makes them whole.
  - ***"For in him [JESUS] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:19-20)***
- But we not only get excited about this reality, it also moves us to be about the same mission. Just as Jesus fed the hungry, cared for the marginalized, and offered forgiveness to people everyone else thought should never deserve it, now we go and do the same.
- Every time we give of our time and resources, we are giving a picture, however faint and small, of what God's kingdom looks like. Every time we step in and help families who are struggling. Every time we counsel those who are addicted as well as those who are discouraged, we point to the coming day when there are no more addicts, and if you can believe it, no one will experience an ounce of discouragement. Unbelievable!
- Every good deed, every kind word... points people to who Christ is and what he has done for us. This is why we hosted Soccer Nights, to offer some fun for kids because I can promise you hanging out with Jesus forever will be a lot of fun. We also offered some relief to weary and stressed out parents (a two hour break from little humans sometimes feels like a week's vacation.)
- This is also why we host Serve Medford week: as we clean parks, conduct service projects at the Boys & Girls Club and Chevalier, as we distribute food & clothing to families in need, we give people a taste of what it is like to be connected to the one who restores all things, the Crucified King of Renewal.

T: #2

## ii. Behold Jesus, the Crucified King of Truth.

- The Greek word for “bear witness” here is *martureo* where we get our word “martyr.” A martyr is one who witnesses to the truth, so Jesus says that his purpose is to witness to the truth.
- How are we to understand “truth?” Jesus says: There is truth that comes from outside of us and gives meaning to our world. Many people believe truth comes from within us and we get to determine truth. That kind of “truth” is relative, subjective, and ever changing. That’s true for you, but it’s not true for me. There’s no ultimate standard if we are the creators of our own truth, BUT if God determines truth and the truth comes from outside of us, then we can all recognize the same reality.
- Jesus says, my kingdom is characterized by that truth. I speak it and I embody it.
- You see, Jesus not only spoke words of truth to bring us back on God’s path of life and peace, he also lived the Truth.
  - This is the dominant note of the crucifixion narrative. He lived perfectly. He did no wrong. Even in this moment when he was accused of the greatest wrong - saying he was God and a self-proclaimed King, Pilate on three separate occasions says,
    - “I find no guilt in him.” (18:38)
    - “I find no guilt in him.” (19:4)
    - “I find no guilt in him.” (19:6)
  - This was necessary so that Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice for our guilt before God.
  - **“He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:22-25)**
- He took our place. On the cross, Jesus displayed the height of humility and sacrifice. He died so that we might have life. He was wounded so that we might be healed.
- And you might wonder: is this gift for me? Look in verses *19:16b-22*.
- Pilate had a sign **[PICTURE]** placed on the cross that identified the charge against Jesus, which could be read as a charge or a fact, but the way Pilate wrote it, it reads as a fact.
 

In Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek  
 “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”  
 “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”  
 “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”
- This sign would have been large enough for everyone passing on the road going into the city to read it. There is so much irony in this story...
- This was so irritating to the Jews that they tried to get Pilate to change it. “This man said... not he is.” Pilate says “it is what is; what I have written I have written.”
- For everyone who sees the cross, including us today, Jesus died to bring us in, no matter what we look like or what language we speak. Jesus died for all.

T: Please listen to this: at the end of the day, just like in this story, everyone who hears this news of what Jesus did for us on the cross will either receive or reject Jesus as their King.

### III. Behold Jesus, the Crucified King of Redemption.

*Read 19:23-30.*

The final words John records from Jesus, as his body hung there writhing in pain, form three of the most powerful words in the Bible are actually one word in the Greek: τετέλεσται — ***“It is Finished.”***

What is finished? The work of redemption.

- Story from Soccer Nights: Conversation with a parent on the sidelines: why did you name your church “Redemption Hill?” Thank you! That’s a great question...
- When Jesus died on the cross he paid the price our sin had earned us. **“For the wages of sin (what we earn for our wrongdoing) is death.”**
- Jesus completed the work that we could never do. Someone who is full of wrong doing cannot make up for their wrongs. The stain has already been set, but Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, died in our place to offer us the gift of redemption and life. **“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)**
- In explaining the atonement, Anselm said, *“The debt was so great, that while man alone owed it, only God could pay it.”*
- So now, here’s the crazy thing, we can receive the benefit of his death by trusting in his finished work for us on the cross.
- Here’s what this looks like:
  - Someone can look at the cross and say: “That is amazing. Look at Jesus dying on the cross for people. What a great example!”
  - OR someone can look at the cross and say: “I don’t know what to say. I’m wordless, because Jesus died *FOR. . . . ME . . .*.”
- One acknowledges it happened. The other accepts it as the greatest gift from God meeting the greatest need of their soul.
- It is the difference between joy and indifference, and it is the difference between heaven and hell.

When Jesus finished his work, the work was completely done.

- I don’t know about you, but I often find it difficult to finish a job completely. This can show up in the most simple ways: Doing the Dishes (leave a pans on the stove because they’re hard(er). How ridiculous?) Or reading 8 chapters of a good book and never coming back to read chapters 9 & 10.
- In the marathon of redemption, Jesus did not run 16 miles or 22 miles or 26.1 miles and then turn around and ask us to run the final 10.2 or 6.2 or even tenth of a mile. He finished the work completely, and then he allows us to stand with him on the victory podium.
- This sounds scandalous to us, because deep down we think we have to pay God back; we think we have to finish the race.
  - But how much would be enough?
  - And why would Jesus die if we could pay him back?
- No, we simply must receive the gift. **“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is *not your own doing*; it is the gift of God, *not a result of works*, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)**
- Jesus + Nothing = Everything

*Conclusion:* What does this mean for you? **Three Possible Responses**

**1. Gratitude & Wonder**

- When we consider all the cross means . . . the long promised prophecies of fulfilled, the mystery of his plan now revealed, the glory of God displayed, the inestimable blessings bestowed on sinful, when we consider all of that, it should move us to amazement and wonder. Are you marveling at this?
- The wonder and the amazement become so personal because he truly died for *me*.

## **2. Curiosity & Questions**

- Explore with us. Come back. Ask questions. We want to help.

## **3. No Thanks, BUT Wow**

- I hope that even if you don't receive this gift for yourself (at this point), you would say - if that's true, that would be the most amazing story the world has ever known. God would give himself to bring us back to himself and heal everything that was ever broken. Wow!

Don't get mad at me, but here's what I'm going to do: for those of you saying "no thanks," I'm going to pray that you would move toward greater curiosity and questions.

AND those with curiosity and questions, I'm going to pray that you would move toward gratitude and wonder.

AND for those with gratitude and wonder, I'm going to pray that it would grow and increase as you continue to consider all that the Crucified King did for us on the cross.