

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN**The Perfect
Timing
of Jesus****INTRODUCTION**

John 19:17-37

Throughout my years I have had several jobs. These included being an educator, a Pastor, an umpire, a newspaper deliverer, and a technology consultant. As a technology consultant, I had a handful of excellent graphic artists work for me that could create logos that my brain was coming up with. Chapman Consulting, as my technology consulting company is called, has created logos for schools, churches, companies, and for t-shirt designs. Some of my favorite ones include a pirate for Plank Jr. High, a shark for

Southbury Elementary School, a gator for Gombert Elementary, the comets of Concord Jr. High, and of course, 5B's Catering. Even though I show a couple of these logos on this page, you probably do not recognize them. If you had a child attend one of these schools, you probably would have apparel with these logos all over them. Perhaps you would have a car magnet to show the world that you were part of the Southbury Shark community or that you loved 5B's pork



chops so much that you had a window cling with their logo on it. Even if you did, if you traveled 50 miles in any direction, the random person on the street probably would not know what the logo was representing.

However, if you went up to a random person that lived 1,000 miles away from Sugar Grove, in any direction, they would probably recognize the logo that is often referred to as the "Golden Arches."¹

If you Google "most popular logos in the world", McDonald's will be on most of the lists. Having a few kiddos myself, I can tell you that if this symbol presents itself while we are riding along in the car, everyone starts smiling a little more.



At the center and core of biblical Christianity, we have a symbol that is quickly recognized across the world, and it is the cross. The cross, although a symbol of death and excruciating pain in its origin, is now seen as "the intersection of God's love and His justice."² Paul, who knew more about scripture than I could ever dream of, said to the Corinthians, "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."³ Obviously, Paul knows a lot more than Jesus and His crucifixion, but his point to the people reading his letter was to say that these are first and foremost in his message. The golden arches will bring a lot of hope and happiness to kids (and adults) around the world, but the joy received in eating some nuggets and fries is short-lived. The cross brings us hope for not only today but for eternity.

¹ Logo McDonalds PNG Transparente - Stickpng. (n.d.). Retrieved May 8, 2022, from <https://www.stickpng.com/es/img/iconos-logotipos-emojis/marcas-emblematicas/logo-mcdonalds>

² GotQuestions.org (Ed.). (2014, August 24). *Meaning of the Cross*. GotQuestions.org. Retrieved May 8, 2022, from <https://www.gotquestions.org/meaning-of-the-cross.html>

³ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

OPEN IT

1. What was a time in your life that you had one plan but realized that God was taking you a completely different direction?

READ IT

John 19:17-37

EXPLORE IT

2. Who carried the cross that Jesus would hang on? (v.17)
3. How many people were crucified with Jesus? (v.18)
4. What did the sign on Jesus' cross say? (v.19)
5. How many seams did Jesus' tunic have? (v.23)
6. Who did Jesus ask to take care of His mother? (vv. 26-27)
7. What were Jesus' last words? (v.30)
8. Whose legs did the soldiers break? Whose legs did they not break? (vv.31-33)

APPLY IT

The Apostle John does not go into great detail regarding the cruel act of crucifying a person. However, the act was a horrible execution. It was not only a guaranteed way to die; it would cause shame, suffering, starvation, and suffocation. Many times the Roman soldiers beat people before being crucified. This beating would come in the form of flogging (see John 19:1). Once they arrived at the place of crucifixion, which was located by the main road, the criminal would be stripped, nailed to the cross, and raised. That would start the process of extreme pain in the median nerves in the hands and arms and on the feet. The Romans were often good with having people hang on the cross until they died, which would take 24-36 hours (succumbing to exhaustion, dehydration, or suffocation). However, at times, they needed to speed up the process so that they would die quicker (as we see in the case of when Jesus was being crucified) because of all of the guests coming into town. When that happened, they would use sledgehammer-like tools to break the tibia and fibula (bones in the lower legs) to take away the option of the criminal from pushing up on the platform or nails to grab a breath. They would die from any number of body responses, and it would happen quickly.

Because people knew about crucifixions, they were terrified of them. Often when a criminal was convicted of a crime and sentenced to be crucified, they had mental breakdowns. They lost the ability to function and couldn't carry their cross. The soldier would drive them to their demise using a whip or other tool, pushing them along the route.

Jesus was unlike all of the other people that had ever been crucified. He not only understood what the process of crucifixion was, but He knew that He was going to be hung there for eternity past. Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3:14, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."⁴ Jesus knew what was coming.

John 19:16b-17, Matthew 27:31, and Isaiah 53:7 are some scriptures helping you see how Jesus willingly went to the cross in complete obedience.

- 9. Read the story of Isaac and Abraham (Genesis 22:1-18) and identify some comparisons between the sacrifice of Isaac and the sacrifice of Jesus.**

SACRIFICE OF ISAAC	SACRIFICE OF JESUS

⁴ Ibid

As a student of the scriptures, you will come across many things that happened in Jesus' life that were predicted in the Old Testament. In fact, there were many times that Jesus directly quoted Old Testament words. One such time was on the cross. Although John does not record these words, Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34 both do. "And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?""⁵ These words came directly from Psalm 22 when David is anguish over troubled times in his own life.

Read Psalm 22

- 10. What are five things that you see in Psalm 22 that connect directly with the crucifixion of Jesus?**
(Hint: see v. 1, 7, 8, 18, & 31)

⁵ Ibid

In my early 20s, I had the opportunity to be in an Easter drama at the church I was attending. My main part in the play was to be part of the trial against Jesus. I remember my line very well, “This man said that he could destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days...three days!”

Jesus said in John 2, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”⁶ However, during the trial, the accusers (like I was in the Easter drama) said, as recorded in Mark 14, “For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ‘We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’’’ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.”⁷ If you look closely, you will see that Mark added a keyword that identifies that this is false testimony. Mark includes the phrase, “made with hands.”

False testimony is not the only unjust thing that the Jewish leaders did when they were trying to get Jesus executed. John MacArthur said, referring to the illegal unjust trials of Jesus, “In the Jewish trial of Jesus Christ...they violated every single law of justice and jurisprudence known to them. They violated every single one of them willfully, so that the trial of Jesus Christ is the most unjust trial in human history.”⁸

So, what is the point of including this commentary when these trials took place in the previous chapter and verses (John 18:19-19:16)? The point is that Jesus knew all of this would happen exactly as it happened. Jesus needed to make that walk to His death on that precise day in history. Without an unjust trial, the earliest it could have happened would have been Sunday by Jewish law. However, God was and continues to be in control.

11. What is a time when you felt that you were either treated unfairly or just thought that you received the short end of the stick, but when you looked back, you could see how God was entirely in charge?

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ MacArthur, J. (1985, January 13). The Illegal, Unjust Trials of Jesus, Part 1. Grace to You. Retrieved May 8, 2022, from <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/2389/the-illegal-unjust-trials-of-jesus-part-1>

The story of Jesus saturates the metanarrative of the Bible, and prophecies of His first advent are found throughout the Old Testament. Allusions to Him also come up in micro ways, as many people and events hint at the work He would accomplish. One scholar, J. Barton Payne, has found as many as 574 verses in the Old Testament that somehow point to or describe or reference the coming Messiah. Alfred Edersheim found 456 Old Testament verses referring to the Messiah or His times. Conservatively, Jesus fulfilled at least 300 prophecies in His earthly ministry.⁹

What are the chances that Jesus just happened to fulfill these prophecies? A professor at Westmont College decided to get his students to work through the math. "After examining only eight different prophecies, they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} . To illustrate how large the number 10^{17} is (a figure with 17 zeros), the professor gave this illustration: If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They'll cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the one silver dollar that has the special mark on it. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would've had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time."¹⁰

12. Reread John 19:17-37. Can you name some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled?

⁹ GotQuestions.org. (2019, November 5). Prophecies of Jesus. GotQuestions.org. Retrieved May 8, 2022, from <https://www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html>

¹⁰ Mckenzie, Lea, Negron, G., Jane, & Seventeen, J. (2015, December 1). The Mathematical Probability that Jesus is the Christ. Empower International. Retrieved May 8, 2022, from <https://empower.global/the-mathematical-probability-that-jesus-is-the-christ/>

In all of the mockery that the Gospel writers recorded during the trials of Jesus on that Friday morning, I find it ironic that the only person to figure out the truth was a pagan governor. Pilate said, as recorded by Luke, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.” Additionally, he added, “What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty” Even Pilate’s wife respected Jesus more than the Jewish leaders. In Matthew 27, she sent word to her husband, saying, “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”¹¹

However, even with the recognition of innocence and the warning received through his wife’s dream, Pontius Pilate gave in to blackmail and sided with the religious leaders to execute Jesus. But, in a final strategic move, even though Pilate did almost nothing else as he should have, Pilate had his people create a sign to display the crime that Jesus had committed. This sign was held up near the criminal when they made their way to the place of crucifixion. The goal was to deter future criminals from committing such crimes or else, and it also allowed opportunities for witnesses to come forward in the final hour to provide evidence to acquit the person being put to death. So, to perhaps get back at the blackmailing, Pilate had a sign that said, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”¹² The Jewish leaders did not receive the wording well, but there was nothing they could do.

Jesus was a nobody (from their viewpoint) because he was born in Nazareth and was a King, not only to the Jews but to the entire world. So, Pilate got it right. What he didn’t get right is that he not only ignored the truth presented to him, but he ignored the absolute Truth that was standing before him.

13. Have you accepted the truth of the scriptures? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life, knowing that the only way to the Father is through His Son?

The Bible teaches us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Therefore, the sign that could be carried for us might look more like a billboard. However, those of us that have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior will have a different sign...instead of a sign of guilt, it is more of a sign of mercy.

14. What do you think your sign of mercy would proclaim on it?

¹¹ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

¹² Ibid

A lot of people have their last words recorded in history.

- Frank Sinatra said, "I'm losing it."
- Nostradamus rightly commented, "Tomorrow, at sunrise, I shall no longer be here."
- Harriet Tubman sang, "Swing low, sweet chariot."
- Leonardo da Vinci stated, "I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have."
- Benjamin Franklin was quoted as saying, "A dying man can do nothing easy."
- Michael Landon responded to his son, who told him he could move on and said, "You're right. It's time. I love you all."
- Vince Lombardi was speaking to his wife, "Happy anniversary. I love you."
- John Wayne turned and looked at his bride and said to her, "Of course I know who you are. You're my girl. I love you."¹³

The Bible records Jesus' last words as well. In the Gospel of John, a few things He said were recorded. John 19:26–27, 28b, and 30. However, when you put the four Gospels together, you get a bigger picture of Jesus' last words.¹⁴

- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Luke 23:34
- "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43
- "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother." John 19:26–27
- "My God, My God, have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34
- "I thirst." John 19:28
- "It is finished." John 19:29–30
- "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

John is the only Gospel writer that records those three most powerful words, "It is finished." One preacher I heard one time said that Jesus wasn't only declaring the end of His life, the end of His suffering, and the end of His followers owing a debt to the Father, but He was also declaring that He had made it through the forsaking He endured when God turned His back on Him.

15. Watch this [YouTube video](#) (175 seconds long). Write out a reflection you have concerning Jesus' words, "It is finished."

¹³ Brahms, W. B. (2010). Last words of notable people: Final words of more than 3500 noteworthy people throughout history. Reference Desk Press.

¹⁴ The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

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