

What John saw at the Cross

Intro to Reading

- John was at the cross.
- First hand account.
- John was young. Now he is old.
- He's had time to reflect....

How do you see the cross?

For John the cross is not shame, but victory. He remembered that Jesus spoke about being "lifted up".

- 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up
- 8:28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be
- 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." 33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

So what did John see?

1. Jesus is in charge and Jesus is King.
 - Pilate handed Jesus over
 - The soldiers took charge
 - The chief priests didn't like the sign
 - Pilate stands by what is written - (even though it is treason)
2. Fulfilling Scripture
 - They gambled for my clothes. Ps.22:18
 - I'm thirsty
 - Ps.69 "Vinegar for my thirst"
 - Also Ps 22
 - Not a bone broken. Ex 12
 - Look on one they have pierced. Zech 12
3. The women standing there.
 - Crucifixion was grisly
 - They kept Mary company
 - Mary, wife of Clopas/Cleopas
 - The significance of women in Church.
4. He places John and Mary in each other's care.
 1. Jesus' compassion.
 2. Filling the gap for Mary
 3. Giving John a Mission
5. Jesus' focus
 - Fulfilling Scripture while hanging on the cross
6. His victory
 - "Tetelestai"
 - Giving up His Spirit
7. His Perfect Sacrifice and Actual Death
 - He really died
 - He really was the one who could pay for us

John 19:16-37

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ Here they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "*They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.*" So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," ²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸ Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."