

Today we will talk about the death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the foundational event of our faith and of all of history. And though if you have been a Christian for long, you have heard countless sermons on it already. We will talk about it again. I hope that I will say nothing new that has not been said before. And yet we say it again not just because it is the time of year to do so. We say it again because every sermon that has ever been preached over the last 2000 years about the death and resurrection of Jesus has only begun to tell the story of what good news it is. This morning we will focus on the death and the crucifixion of Jesus. And next week on Easter, we will focus and celebrate his resurrection. If you have your Bible, I would invite you to turn to Matthew 27:27-61.

### **I. King Jesus suffered and died in our place to bring salvation and resurrection.**

We only have one point this morning.

There are 1000 different ones that we could make.

I was tempted to preach a five or six point sermon, but I will just keep us focused.

We'll read through the story and look at these many different details and different angles.

We will be reminded of the great suffering that Jesus underwent.

But I want us to stay focused on the good news of what Jesus did.

We decorate this room with crosses, and we love the cross, and we value the cross because of what the cross means.

The cross is our hope, the cross is our salvation.

Look at the first section and verse 27, **"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him."**

At this point, Jesus has already been arrest arrested.

He has been sentenced to die and be crucified.

He has already been whipped bloody by metal and bone.

He has been beaten and bloodied so much already that he is can scarcely stand and is unrecognizable.

But the humiliation continues.

They take Jesus in front of hundreds of soldiers to be mocked.

The battalion is around 600 men give or take.

Hundreds of people gathered to their witness to Jesus's suffering.

Verse 28, **"And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,"**

They strip him naked in front of this crowd.

Imagine being stripped naked in front of hundreds so they can mock you.

Now imagine being beaten bloody before hand.

That is what they did to our Lord.

I want to remind you that he endured this for you.

All of the suffering that Jesus Christ experienced that we will read about this morning was suffering we should have experienced.

It was a suffering meant only for the worst kind of criminals and sinners of whom we are.

And though Jesus was perfect, and though Jesus did no wrong.

He willingly faced all of this suffering quietly for you and for me that we may find salvation.

Verse 29, **"and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"**

They put a robe on him, meant to be worn by kings

And they made a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

They hammered and forced it on his head.

They put a plant in his hand as a mock scepter.

And then they bowed before him and mockingly said hail king.

I made it part of a point to recognize that Jesus is the king.

He claimed to be the king not just of the Jews with the king of the cosmos.

He claims to be the king of kings.

What other king if they had it in their power would allow themselves to be treated this way?

This is only the way that you treat kings that you have conquered.

This is the way that a king treats another king that he beat in battle. Jesus has lost none of his power or his angels or his might, and yet he allowed himself to be mocked this way, and he endured it silently. He endured it, even though I'm sure, and at least his human body part of him wanted to say something.

But our King did not.

He was willing to suffer for you and for me, though he did not have to he took the hardest path.

He came to wear these kingly garments.

Verse 30, **"And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him."**

They continue and they spit on him and they take the septor and they beat him with the reed

And they do this and till everyone kinda gets bored.

And so they strip him in front of everyone again.

And they put his torn clothes on him and they take him to be crucified.

Verse 32, **"As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross."**

They have to find someone else to carry Jesus cross.

And the reason is because Jesus cannot physically do it.

He does not have the strength to stand or to carry anything.

And so they find someone from the crowd and force him to do it.

Verse 33, **"And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it."**

You can only imagine the suffering and thirst that he must've had

And they offer him something to drink

It was likely a painkiller or poison.

Something to make the suffering easier.

But He refuses and takes it all, for you and me.

Verse 35, **"and when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots."**

Here they once again, stripped him in front of an even larger crowd.

And as he is naked, they hammer nails into his hands and feet.

Where he hangs on the piece of wood having to pull himself up for every breath.

And while he is dying.

Well, he is in more pain than we can think of every moment.

They throw dice and lots to figure out who gets his clothes.

The only things that he has in the world.

Verse 36, **"Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. 37 And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."**

The soldiers are just there to make sure that he dies.

To make sure that no one can rescue him

To make sure that he cannot survive.

They just have to hang out until the executions finished.

And above his head again, they mocking we're killing this man because he claimed to be king.

Here's the king.

He's the only king who would die in the place of his people.

And not just for his people, the Jews, but for those who are not as people.

For those who were far off.

Verse 38, **"Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads"**

Jesus is executed next to common criminals

He's not recognized by the government is that special to deserve his own execution.

Verse 40, **"and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."**

The crowds continue to mock him

And they mock not just the fact that he claims to be king, but the fact that he claims to be God.

And the fact that he claims to save.

They have heard Jesus say that he came to seek and save the lost.

They've heard Jesus heal the blind and forgive sins.

They say, if you really could do those things you do them for yourself.

Because they don't understand, he is doing it right now.

The crowd remarks that he said he could destroy the temple and rebuild it.

They don't understand that's exactly what he is doing now.

The temple was just a shadow building to remind them of the presence of God.

And here in the body of Christ God fully dwells.

And the temple of his body is being destroyed, but in three days, it will be resurrected from the dead.

They tell him if he's the son of God he should come down, but they don't understand he must stay up.

The son of God must stay on the cross till he dies to save us.

If he quits there is no hope.

Verse 41, **"So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,"**

All the rest of the religious leaders also mock him.

Those who most should know, king Jesus, when he appears reject him.

Verse 42, **"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him."**

They point out again. He saved other people, but now we can't save himself..

But Jesus is saving everyone now in this moment.

They mock His kingship again.

And though they have seen miracle after miracle and denied them

Now they promise if he somehow came down, they wouldn't this time.

We know it's not true because he's about to come back from the dead and they won't believe it either.

Verse 43, **"He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"**

They want to see what God's gonna do since he said he was the son of God.

They assume God will do nothing.

Just like an atheist who mocks God and tells him to strike him dead.

But they have no idea that Easter is coming.

Verse 44, **"And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way."**

Even those who are dying next to Jesus mock him.

Matthew's Gospel paints a harsh picture of the suffering of Jesus.

Matthew paints a picture of him being completely alone.

Verse 45, **"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour"**

In the entire land is covered in darkness

The darkness of Jesus feeling is found everywhere

Verse 46, **"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"**

Jesus cries out, asking why God has forsaken him.

The Trinity is not broken.

Jesus is not losing His divinity here.

God has not actually forsaken Jesus.

There's theological problems if we take that path.

Jesus actually quoting Psalm 22 even in his last moments with his last breath, he praise God's word.

And I think he praised this because on the cross, Jesus takes the fullness of the suffering that all of us deserve for all our misdeeds and all of our sins.

Jesus takes them all upon himself.

He endured it for you and for me.

This is what it felt like at the moment.

Even though He is not actually abandoned by God.

Much like we will say God is ignoring us, even when we know it is not true, but it feels that way.

And look at the rest of Psalm 22.

Much of it prophecies Christ's crucifixion and death.

It prophecies the lots, his refusal to drink, his bones not breaking.

And it prophecies the resurrection.

**24 "For he has not despised or abhorred, the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him."**

**31 "they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it."**

I encourage you to go read the whole Psalm today.

Verse 47, **"And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."**

The people are around them still don't understand, and they think he must be praying not to God, but to one of the prophets

Verse 48, **"And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."**

Somebody thinks I may let's give them some something gross to drink that will sting his wounds and hurt.

Others just want to see what's gonna happen

Verse 50, **"And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit."**

Jesus dies again.

I want you to see that he yields his spirit because he's still the king.

Yes, Jesus was crucified and executed and killed, but it wouldn't have happened unless Jesus allowed it.

And Jesus only died when he decided it was time.

Jesus only died when the fullness of our sins were placed on him.

I'm going to skip verse 51 for now, but I promise we will come back at the end.

Verse 57, **"When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus." 58 He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud"**

The evening has come in. Jesus's body has been hanging there for a while.

And so a rich man who was a follower of Jesus, asked for his body.

Instead of it being tossed in a mass grave or mutilated for trophies.

He asks to be able to bury it.

And he sacrifices and buries Jesus in his own tomb.

There's something beautiful there.

Jesus lays and Joseph's tomb because Jesus is dying in Joseph's place.

And Jesus died in your place.

Jesus was buried in your tomb.

Jesus was in our coffin.

And Jesus did that so that you did not have to.

And as He came out of the tomb,

So we will if we trust in Christ.

Verse 60, **“and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.”**

We see that Jesus, his body is wrapped in the burial clothes placed in the tomb, and a great stone is rolled in front because he is buried.

They have done all that they should do for the body of the dead.

And this is important for us to note that we believe that Jesus Christ died and was buried.

In the great creed of the church, we emphasize those words buried.

Because he was put in a tomb in the ground.

We believe Jesus did not pretend to die. He did not come close to death.

He did not technically die.

He was not mostly dead like in the princess bride.

Jesus was all the way dead.

And Jesus was buried and he knows what it's like to die.

Most of us if we are honest, one of the things we fear most is death.

Listen Jesus has felt and experienced death so that we do not have to.

Jesus died so that we do not have to.

Jesus is the strength of the bell that we can ring and call for salvation.

Because he suffered and died in our place that we may be saved.

And he suffered and died in our place so that when it is our turn to go into the ground, we can know our savior has already been there and come out and so will we.

Because Jesus died to bring resurrection.

Go back to verse 51, **“And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup> and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”**

This is my favorite part of the Easter story

It's one of the weirdest parts of the Easter story.  
And it's one that we usually skip over don't always talk about.  
Maybe you have never ever read it before.  
But at the moment that Jesus died, many things happened.  
One of them is that the curtain in the temple of the holy of holies was torn  
in two.  
That curtain is so big and so thick you couldn't tear that into if you tried.  
But God tore it in two because now the presence of God has come into  
the world.  
No longer do we need a high priest to go into the presence of God for us  
to spill blood on the mercy seat for our sins  
Because we have a high priest in Jesus Christ, who right now stands at the  
right hand of the father in her seats for us  
And he pray for us.  
And his blood already covered all our sins.  
And now we can go into the presence of God and we pray and sing and  
hear his word. We can feel the presence of God in a way that only the high  
priest got to before.

And Jesus's death, the Earth itself, shook, and rocks were split.  
Something happened at his death  
The Earth itself cried out.  
And Jesus said that if we would not praise him, the stones themselves  
would cry out.  
All the people around Jesus were mocking him and would not praise him,  
but the stones did.

And the greatest miracle tombs are opened  
And the bodies of the Saints of those who have trusted in God and trusted  
in Jesus, come out.  
And after Easter, they begin to go into Jerusalem and appear.  
And they preach and proclaimed that we are back from the dead because  
Jesus is back from the dead.

I understand why this doesn't always make it into our stories

It's hard enough to believe the virgin conceived.

It's hard enough to believe that that child is actually the son of God the son of God cares for us and came to forgive our sins, and the son of God was crucified and died in our place and then he came back to life miraculously so that we all could.

What a resurrection is hard enough we also want to say oh and by the way, many other were resurrected with him.

But it's here and it's important.

And it reminds us that Jesus died to bring not your salvation of the forgiveness of sins, but resurrection.

And that resurrection started happening immediately.

A foretaste of the resurrection to come.

And 54, **"When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'"**

With the Centurion and those who were supposed to watch Jesus to make sure he died, saw the earthquake and the tombs, and everything that had happened. They acknowledged this must must've been the son of God.

The very people who had been spitting and taking his clothes and mocking his naked body

They believed.

King Jesus suffered and died in our place to bring salvation and resurrection.

There is salvation, and there is resurrection because of what Jesus did.

This is the gospel and this is our hope.

We believe that all of us our sinners.

We are broken.

We are messed up and we have failed in so many ways.

And the wages of our sin is death.

If there is a scale at the end of our lives to weigh our good deeds on our bad deeds, our bad deeds are far too heavy.

But the good news is that Jesus Christ had no sin.

He was perfect.

And because he was a man, he could be our mediator.

He could take our place.

Because he's God he wanted to.

On the cross, Jesus took everything that you or I should've had to.

And he did so so that we could be forgiven and saved, and brought back to life.

So we could experience physical Resurrection and spiritual resurrection.

So that we could be born again.

If you would dare to claim the name of Christ, you must believe what Christ died.

This is not just a story.

This is not a theory or an intellectual or theological exercise.

This is the heart of our faith.

If you are not a Christian Jesus died for you.

You have probably heard it before. I hope you hear it again.

Jesus died for you because he loves you.

Jesus died for you because he thought you were worth dying for.

Jesus wanted to adopt you as a son or his daughter.

He wanted you as his child.

And he was willing to pay any price to ransom you from sins grasp.

I invite you to believe in the death of Jesus.

If you want to follow Jesus, all we have to do is confess our sins.

And don't worry, you don't have to remember every single one because you can't.

You just have to admit that you have them and you can't pay the fee.

That you were indebted to God and can never get out.

Confess with your mouth and believe with your heart that Jesus really is the king and that he died for you and you can find salvation and a resurrection.

And if you don't believe that, none of this other Christian stuff really is worth anything.

This is the core of all we believe.

Nothing else makes sense without it.

There is no other hope in life or in death than the death of Jesus.

Those of us who are Christians.

We must remember the cross and the resurrection.

We must find comfort and purpose in the death of Christ.

Because of the cross we are loved.

Because of the cross we are forgiven.

Because of the cross we are adopted.

Because of the cross we are saved.

Because of the cross we are redeemed.

Because of the cross our wounds are healed.

Because of the cross we can have new life.

Because of the cross we can be resurrected.

King Jesus suffered and died in our place to bring salvation and resurrection.

All because of the cross.