

Jesus was the perfect servant and He invites us to live a life of serving God and serving others.

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Luke 22:24-53

And there arose a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' But it is not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater, the one who sits at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. And you are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." And he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death!" And He said, "Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

And He said to them, "When I sent you out without wallet and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" And they said, "No, nothing." And He said to them, "But now, let him who has a wallet take it along, likewise also a bag, and let him who has no sword sell his robe and buy one. For I tell you, that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me. 'And He was numbered with transgressors'; for that which refers to Me now has its fulfillment." And they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

And He proceeded as He usually did to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. When He arrived He told His followers "pray so that you do not fall into temptation." And He moved a distance from them and began to pray "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him, yet in His great agony He prayed fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling on the ground. When He got up from praying He found His followers sleeping, worn out from sorrow. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

The emotional and physical pressure upon Christ must have been unbearable, inasmuch as He was taking upon Himself the sins of the world.

KILLING CHRIST

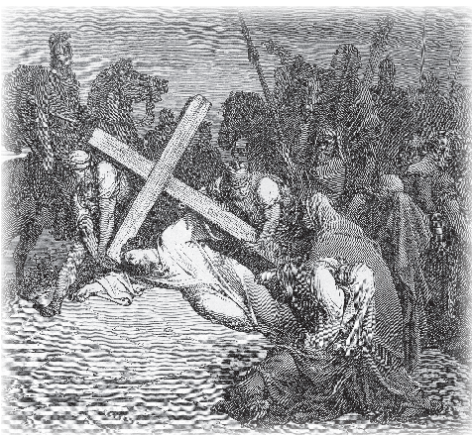
John 18:1-32

Roman officers ensured that Christ's death, trial, and burial would be free from tampering.

The sheer authority of Jesus' Name drove them to the ground, and demonstrated that He was not being taken, but was delivering Himself to be killed.

Observe the same account of this "ear slaying" in Luke. What do you see?

John is anonymous in his own book, and refers to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved."



When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the ravine of the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, into which He and His disciples entered. Now Judas who was betraying Him also knew the place; for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas received the Roman soldiers and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came into the garden. And Judas who was betraying Him was standing there with them with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went to them and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." When He said to them, "I am He" they drew back, and fell to the ground.

Again He asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I told you I am He. If you are here for Me, let these others go on their way," that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I have lost not even one."

Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?"

So the Roman soldiers and their commander, and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was necessary for one man to die on behalf of the people. And Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside.

The servant-girl therefore who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's followers, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servant and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest was questioning Jesus about His followers and about His teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; from the beginning I taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I

The Praetorium was the Roman hall in the capital of Jerusalem from which the Jews were governed.

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Pilate reluctantly submitted to the inevitable when these troublesome Jews invoked Caesar's name. There could only be one king in the Empire, and that was Caesar.

spoke nothing in secret. Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; behold, they know what I said." And when He had said this, one of the officers standing by hit Jesus with a severe blow, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, reveal the wrong; but if correctly, why do you strike Me?" Annas therefore sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself by the fire. They said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with Him?" Peter therefore denied it again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

They led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium in order that they might not be defiled, but might share in the Passover. Pilate therefore went out to them, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Pilate therefore said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, indicating what kind of death He was about to die.

DAY THIRTY-EIGHT

John 18:33-19:22

Pilate again entered into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom, that I should release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish that I release for you the King of the Jews?" Therefore they cried out again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a criminal.

Then Pilate took Jesus, and had Him violently whipped. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and arrayed Him in a purple robe; and they began to come up

Many prophecies were fulfilled in the birth, life, ministry, and death of Christ. These were made hundreds and even thousands of years before His birth.



to Him, and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him blows in the face. And Pilate came out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no guilt in Him."

Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; and he entered into the Praetorium again, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate therefore said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin." As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour of the day. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" Then they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered Him to them to be crucified.

They then took Jesus and He went out, carrying His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, along with two other men, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. And Pilate wrote an inscription also, and put it on the cross. And it was written, "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek. And so the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered "What I have written I have written."

John 19:23-42

The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and tore it into four parts, a part to every soldier. They did the same with His tunic; and the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. They said therefore to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be;" that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "They divided My outer garments among



Hyssop was an herb that provided a natural anesthetic, in this case, as crucified people died.

Luke 23:39 - 45 really needs to be read here!

"One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!"

But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

"And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour; because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two."

them, and for My clothing they cast lots." This is why the soldiers did these things. Also standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" He then said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop, and brought it up to His mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.

Because it was the day of preparation (for that Sabbath was a holy day), the Jews asked Pilate that the legs of the three might be broken so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, and that they might be taken away. Therefore the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. I am telling you what I saw with my own eyes, and my witness is true; and I know that I am telling the truth, so that you also may believe. These things came to pass that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of His shall be broken." And again another Scripture says, "They will look on Him whom they pierced."

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. He came and took away His body. And Nicodemus came also, who had first come to Him by night; bringing a mixture of 100 pounds of spices. And so they took the body of Jesus, and wrapped it in linen wrappings with the spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. Therefore on account of the Jewish day of preparation, because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.