

Life Group Notes

Sunday 14 April 2019

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Through Mary's Eyes: Mary the Mother of Jesus

Passage: John 19: 23-27

It's a Friday in Jerusalem. Jn 19:14 tells us that Jesus was delivered to be crucified on the sixth day of the week, at the sixth hour. Sixth day is Friday, the day that mankind was created. This is the long-awaited trial of humankind. Jesus is representing us. Charge of treason against God? Guilty! Charge of claiming to be king? Guilty! But it's not just any Friday, it's also Passover. At the very time the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple, Jesus was being sacrificed outside the city walls.

There are 4 soldiers responsible for His death. They take an item of clothing each. Then they gamble for the "tunic" – the undergarment. This fulfils Psalm 22: 16-18, a 1000-year old prophecy about Messiah suffering before becoming King. Also, we realise that Jesus was crucified naked. Nakedness often represents shame. So the clothed one became naked in order that the naked ones might be clothed. The honourable one is shamed so that the shameful ones are honoured.

The four soldiers are contrasted with four women. Jesus is turning the world upside- down, the vulnerable women are serving the *wronged* king whilst the powerful soldiers are serving the *wrong* king.

And Jesus asks the disciple John to take responsibility for his mother Mary. Mary had other sons, but they were not yet believers. Jesus is making a massive statement: **the family of believers trumps natural family**. The church is being forged at the foot of the cross. Blood is a symbol of family, and the blood shed at the cross makes us One family.

At the cross, then, Jesus underwent our trial, took our guilt, and took our punishment, He bore our shame, He fulfilled scripture: Messiah must suffer before he comes in his glory, He inverted the power structures of the world, and He forged a new family.

Questions for application:

1. Why is it significant that Jesus died on a Friday and rose on a Sunday?
2. What is the importance of Jesus dying at Passover?
3. Read Psalm 22 and think about all the aspects of this Psalm that we see being fulfilled at the cross.
4. What does it mean that Jesus bore our shame? How should this truth affect you?
5. Compare the four soldiers and the four women. Which do you think represent the kingdom of God, and why?
6. The church was forged at the foot of the cross. Why is this so important for us?