

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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“HIS” IN MATTHEW 27

Larry R. Ping II

Matthew 27 is a pivotal chapter in not only the Bible, but in the history of mankind. It documents the last hours of Jesus’ life. This lengthy chapter employs the word “his” 14 times, and from these occurrences we can learn valuable lessons. Consider.

1) HIS WIFE (Matt. 27:19). That is, Pilate’s wife. She advised and warned her husband, *“Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.”* This was excellent counsel, but it was entirely ignored. The lesson is easy. Know from whom to not only seek advice, but whose advice to follow. Rehoboam sought and followed the wrong advice (I Kings 12:1-15). Job wisely refused his wife’s poor advice (Job 2:9-10). Solomon penned, *“Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel”* (Prov. 27:9).

2) HIS HANDS (Matt. 27:24). That is, Pilate’s hands. The Bible says, *“When Pilate*

saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it” (Matt. 27:24). This was Pilate’s physical signal to the viewers he was “washing away” the guilt of Jesus’ death. The lesson is clear. It does not matter how many times we “wash our hands,” or rationalize sin, it is still wrong. Paul said it very clearly in Colossians 3:25, *“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”*

3) HIS BLOOD (Matt. 27:25). That is, Jesus’ blood. In this scene, the Jews utter one of the most unbelievable and irresponsible statements in the Bible. *“His blood be on us, and on our children.”* It wasn’t enough for them to involve themselves as individuals. They had to implicate their children as well. The lesson is apparent. It is easy to lose control of our tongue when

in highly volatile situations. The best way to defend this is to not place ourselves there, if we can help it. Peter could have helped himself this way, but did not (Matt. 26:69-75). When we are in these types of circumstances, we must heed the counsel of the wise man, *“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few”* (Eccl. 5:2). James was clear on this matter too, when saying, *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”* (Jam. 1:21).

4) HIS HEAD (Matt. 27:29). That is, Jesus’ head. The Bible declares, *“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head.”* This was done in mocking fashion, as for a “supposed king.” The lesson is plain. The world has among its population those so filled with hate and loathing, they will do unthinkable things. Things such as harvesting thorns

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from a bush and fashioning a crown for purposes of spite. That these folks exist should not be surprising. Solomon said, *“For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence”* (Prov. 4:16-17).

5) HIS CROSS (Matt. 27:32). That is, Jesus’ cross. The Word of God proclaims, *“And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.”* Most likely, by virtue of a very severe scourging, Jesus’ back was in no condition to transport His cross all the way to the place of crucifixion. The lesson here is love. The fact He endured this beating, and the subsequent torture on the cross displays just how much Jesus loved you and me. He said himself, *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep”* (Jn. 10:11). In addition, He uttered, *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”* (Jn. 15:13). What love

He had for us! May we ever be thankful for this great gift.

6) HIS RESURRECTION (Matt. 27:53). That is, Christ’s resurrection. Upon the event of Jesus’ death, *“the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”* When Jesus died, the graves were opened, but the dead were not raised back to life until after Jesus rose from the dead. The lesson is very obvious. For all to be able to raise from the dead one day, Jesus would be the one to power that possibility. Paul penned, *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept”* (I Cor. 15:20).

7) HIS OWN NEW TOMB (Matt. 27:60). That is, Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb. Once Jesus died, there was urgency in removing His body

from the cross. This is when Joseph of Arimathea entered the scene. He is one of the few stories all four Gospel writers cover. Matthew wrote, *“there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed”* (Matt. 27:57-60). You can read about this also in Mk. 15:42-47, Lk. 23:50-56 and Jn. 19:38-42. The lesson here is simple, but important. Pairing Old Testament prophesies with their New Testament fulfillments is essential. To this point, Isaiah foretold, *“And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth”* (Isa. 53:9). Indeed, Jesus was put to death like a criminal, but buried like a rich man.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm