

Jesus Before the Council

^{14:53} And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴ And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.' " ⁵⁹ Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³ And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ And

some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

Peter Denies Jesus

⁶⁶ And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷ and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus."

⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰ But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹ But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷² And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.**" And he broke down and wept.

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

15 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all

the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus Is Mocked

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

²¹ And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²² And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵ And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ And the inscription of the charge

against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way

he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Jesus Is Buried

⁴² And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵ And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

It's hard to read that, without getting a bit emotional, isn't it...
(At least it is for me).

I wonder if you've ever really considered, "What was the greatest cost, for **Jesus** to be sacrificed for our sins?"

You see, we humans, because our perspective is so carnal/fleshly – because our perspective is so bound to this life, we often feel that the greatest cost to Jesus, may have been the excruciating pain of crucifixion...

BTW, did you know that's where the word "excruciating" comes from? - It comes from the Latin "*ex cruciatus*" out of the cross...

But we might think the greatest cost, was the excruciating pain, or death itself – the loss of mortal life ...

And there's no doubt – there is a great cost there... But to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, I believe there was a far greater cost than pain, and a greater cost than death...

As I read the trial and crucifixion of Jesus (especially in this Gospel of Mark), I noticed, that Mark doesn't emphasise all the gory details... What **Mark** tends to highlight, is the humiliation...

- Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- Lord of Heaven and Earth...
- The one to whom all glory and honour is due...
- The King of Kings;
- The Lord of Lords,

Is utterly humiliated.

At the end of His shambolic trial, hidden away in the darkness of night, where the only witnesses they could find, were false witnesses... And yet Jesus submitted Himself to this humiliation...

And after they condemned Him as “deserving of death”, they spat on Him, and they played with him (toyed)... They put a blindfold on Him, and they hit Him, and tormented Him. (They’d hit Him, and “Prophecy. Which one of us did that???”)

Even the title they gave Him “King of the Jews” (Well, we know it was true, but they did it to mock Him).

Pilate didn’t even give Him justice – Pilate just gave the crowd what they wanted, and when Jesus was handed over to the soldiers:

- Dressed him up in a royal looking cloak;
- Crown of thorns;
- And they saluted Him, “Hail the King of the Jews”;
- Strike His head with a reed;
- Spit on Him;
- Kneel down and give Homage;
- And they stripped Him;
- They gambled for His clothes

And so there, was Jesus, naked, nailed to the cross – the picture of utter humiliation... But it didn’t stop there:

- Those who passed by, derided Him;
- Wagging their heads;

- "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross."
- And the chief priests & the scribes mocked Him;
- "He saved others. He can't save Himself."
- Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.
- From Mark's perspective, even those who were crucified with Him, reviled Him.

The thing that strikes me, is the way Mark highlights the humiliation of it all...

And I get this... I would personally rather endure pain, than be humiliated... And I'm not the Holy God who deserves honour... Jesus is...

I would do anything to stop my own humiliation... Jesus didn't...

I reckon some of the greatest cost, was the:

- Humiliation;
- Rejection;
- Abandonment...

Just before He died, what did Jesus cry out???

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

That's a cry of utter despair...

Now, today, it's "common evangelical theology" to say "Because at that point, Jesus was loaded with all the sins of humanity, God couldn't bear to look at Him..."

But I want you to note: Nowhere do the scriptures say that... It **may** be true... I sorta suspect not, because God looks upon all sinners, and He loves them...

But one thing I do know, is that very common explanation often prevents us from digging into our Old Testaments, to see what it really means...

Did you know, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**" is the first line of Ps 22???

Psalm 22, is a psalm that begins in despair, but it ends in triumph...

It begins, with the feeling that God has abandoned Him, but by the end, we realise that things were not as they seemed... The Psalmist **isn't** abandoned by God... The Psalmist **continues** to have faith that God will hear him, and he will be rescued from death, even if he dies first...

Today, if we want to point someone to a certain passage of Scripture, we quote book/chapter/verse... And that's very convenient, but I understand it was only in the 1300's when they began adding chapters (to help find their way around).

How did they used to guide someone to a certain passage of Scripture before that? Or more specifically, how would they guide someone to a specific psalm???

Let me give you a hint:

- Australians all let us rejoice... (advance Australia fair)
- Once a jolly Swagman... (Waltzing matilda)
- Been sheering sheep, we been mustering stock; We been culling out roos, we been spraying the crops... (Boys from the Bush) (Lee Kernegan)

Alright, the way you'd point somebody to a particular psalm, is you'd quote the first line...

As Jesus hung on the cross, to those around Him, it seemed that God had deserted Him... and Jesus says: **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** – He's pointing us to Psalm 22. I reckon we'd better read it, because it's about Him...

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

22 TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE DOE OF THE DAWN. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

and by night, but I find no rest.

- 3 Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- 4 In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- 6 But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"
- 9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.
- 10 On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my
God.
- 11 Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- 13 they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

- 14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
- 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.
- 16 For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—
- 17 I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
- 18 they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
- 19 But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
- 20 Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!
- 21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild
oxen!
- 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of
Israel!

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.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear
him.

²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming
generation;

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

Wow!!!! That's all I can say to that... Wow!!!

It's like Jesus is saying, "You want me to prophecy? The prophecy's already been made – I'm fulfilling it." "Psalm 22 was written 1000 years ago, and now I'm fulfilling it."

It looked like God had deserted Him, but He hadn't. This was God's purpose for Jesus, all along...

The crucifixion gives the appearance of despair, but it ends in triumph... And that's why it's not "evil Friday" – it's "Good Friday"...

On Sunday, we'll celebrate the victory of the resurrection...

Amen.

ⁱ <https://www.facebook.com/ravizacharias/posts/the-very-word-excruciating-comes-from-two-latin-words-ex-cruciatius-or-out-of-the/10151971765411813/>