

## "The Story and the Glory of the Cross"

### Intro

### The Story: John's Account of the Crucifixion

John 19:16-30

### Observations from the passage...

"When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged him on a tree.  
They drove great nails through hands and feet and made a Calvary.  
They crowned him with a crown of thorns, red were his wounds and deep,  
For those were crude and cruel days and human flesh was cheap.  
But when Jesus came to Birmingham they simply passed him by.  
They never hurt a hair of him, they only let him die.  
For men had grown more tender and would not give him pain.  
They only just passed down the street and left him in the rain."  
**-G.A. Studdard Kennedy, *Indifference***

"What 'it' was it that was finished? I will not attempt to expound it. It is the biggest 'it' that ever was. Turn it over and you will see that it will grow, and grow, and grow, and grow, till it fills the whole earth."  
**-Charles Spurgeon**

## **'That Which We Have Seen': Christian Faith & Real History**

- The Christian message is inseparably tied to real history.

**1 Cor 15:3-4, 14-17**

"That which was from the beginning which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ... that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us." (**1 Jn. 1:1-3a**)

- The 'we heard, we saw, we touched' language is featured throughout the New Testament. These things (birth, life, miracles, sayings, death, resurrection, etc.) *really* happened and they have timeless relevance not only for believers but for every nation, culture, and individual.

## **The Glory: The Cross & the Big Story of Redemption**

- The Bible tells one big story, and the cross is the dominant reference point in that story.

## The Big Story – 4 Chapters

1. Creation
  2. Fall
  3. Redemption
  4. Restoration
- The first part of the Big Story – with all of its sin and misery and guilt – *prepares us for* the coming, living, dying and rising of Jesus Christ. All the glory *that comes after it* turns on the hinge of John 19.

## Our Message, Our Stewardship

- Christ's death and what it signifies (which amounts to the gospel) is, in a profound sense, the only message we have for the world and for each other.

- What do you see when you look at Jesus on the cross?

"His disciples thought that the cross would be a degradation; Christ looked through the outward and visible, and beheld the spiritual. "The cross," said he, "the gibbet of my doom may seem to be cursed with ignominy, and the world shall stand round and hiss at the crucified; my name be for ever dishonored as one who died upon the tree; and cavillers and scoffers may for ever throw this in the teeth of my friends that I died with the malefactor; but I look not at the cross as you do. I know its ignominy, but I despise the shame—I am prepared to endure it all. I look upon the cross as the gate of triumph, as the portal of victory. Oh, shall I tell you what I shall behold upon the cross?—just when mine eye is swimming with the last tear, and when my heart is palpitating with its last pang; just when my body is rent with its last thrill of anguish, then mine eye shall see the head of the dragon broken, it shall see hell's towers dismantled and its castle fallen. Mine eye shall see my seed eternally saved, I shall behold the ransomed coming from their prison-houses. In that last moment of my doom, when my mouth is just preparing for its last cry of 'It is finished;' I shall behold the year of my redeemed come, I shall shout my triumph in the delivery of all my beloved! Ay, and I shall see then, the world, mine own earth conquered, and usurpers all dethroned, and I shall behold in vision the glories of the latter days, when I shall sit upon the throne of my father David and judge the earth, attended with the pomp of angels and the shouts of my beloved!" Yes, Christ saw in his cross the victories of it, and therefore did he pant and long for it as being the place of victory and the means of conquest. "I," said Jesus, "if I be lifted up, if I be exalted," he puts his crucifixion as being his glory."

**-Charles Spurgeon**