

***I believe in Jesus Christ...He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;***

**Matthew 27:22-61 ESV**

*Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.*

*And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it*

*on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

**"This is the Word of the Lord; thanks be to God."**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Coronation of the British Monarch is a traditional symbol that does not signify the beginning of the monarch's reign. The coronation typically takes place several months after the death of the previous monarch. This is why the King of England has not yet had a formal ceremony installing him as king. There was a time of grieving for Queen Elizabeth before the king was formally established as king. Therefore, King Philip will be king on May 6th of this year. What will this coronation look like? The various elements of the coronation have gone unchanged for the last thousand years. The steps of the coronation process are called the oath, the anointing, the investing, the crowning, the enthronement, and the closing procession. Each step in the ceremony communicates the symbolic authority and power of the monarch.

If you are sitting in a pew this morning and are listening to me speak, then it is safe to assume you are not under the rule of a British monarch. Funnily enough, people in Britain are not under a monarchy either. We in the United States have a President and not a king. But, if you are a Christian, you have a king named Jesus Christ. Christ

is not Jesus' last name. Christ comes from the Greek word Χριστός which means "anointed one." However, Jesus' anointing as king was not filled with praises, affirmations, and pageantry. Jesus Christ's coronation as king was filled with pain and suffering. Instead of being recognized as the Son of God, Jesus was mockingly called "King of the Jews." Instead of being anointed with oil, he was spat on. Jesus was not given a sword as a symbol that represents authority. Instead, he was given a bruised reed. Jesus was crowned with thorns that pierced his skull rather than a crown filled with jewels.

Why does the coronation of Jesus differ so much from what the British's new king will experience in just a couple months? Jesus' coronation was an event that was filled with hate and despair rather than joy and excitement. Why would the one we call king experience such anguish, pain, and embarrassment? Why? Because the Kingdom of Heaven is not of this world. The Kingdom of Heaven does not look like the powers of this world. Others look at you weirdly because you follow a heavenly king. As believers of Christ, we have a king who was coronated with blood and spit. What do you expect will happen to you? Why does it matter to you if your king was given a crown of thorns rather than gold? Because, as Christians, we believe that **JESUS' EARTHLY CRUCIFIXION IS HIS HEAVENLY ENTHRONEMENT AS OUR ETERNAL KING.**

**The First Point This Morning is that...**  
**JESUS' MOCKERY IS HIS CROWNING, Matthew 27:22-31**

**You Wash Your Hands of Guilt in Vain, 27:24**

*when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."*

This story in Matthew immediately shows us that just like Pontius Pilate, we too attempt to wash our hands of our guilt. Pontius Pilate washing his hands in front of the crowd has the same power as you getting up from your seat and going to the restroom in the back to wash your hands. Both are ceremonial, one to show a sign of guiltlessness, the other a sign of cleanliness. **You Wash Your Hands of Guilt in Vain.**

Are there any rituals or ceremonies that you do to make yourself clean? Perhaps you read your Bible and are convicted to give up something for Lent because you feel the need to live up to such a perfect God. Or maybe you are someone who feels like you are not a good enough Christian because you make a mistake and

sin. You overthink the sin and tell yourself you shouldn't go to church or Gospel Community because you feel ashamed. So, you need to clean yourself up first.

Church, if this is you, remember Pontius Pilate, remember that just like him, you cannot clean yourself of your guilt and any attempt to do so is in vain. Doing so would be like every time you have a sinful thought or sinful action, foolishly going to your bathroom sink and washing your hands. Our King is the only one who can truly wash your hands of any guilt and sin.

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### **You Stain Your Hands with Jesus' Blood, 27:25-26**

*And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.*

If you have children, I know you can relate. When you go to the store or get a present for one kid, the other one wants something, if not the exact same thing. They cry and shout until you either tell them why they are not getting a toy, or you get the toy for them. Which parent are you? And what if I were to tell you that the story of a crowd of Jews shouting for a king was not the first time this has happened in the Bible? Would you be surprised? In the Book of Samuel, Israel is still a young nation and has never had a king of their own. Israel turns around and looks at the other nations surrounding them and gets jealous. 1 Samuel 8:19-22 reads: *But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."*

The Nation of Israel is here again in the Book of Matthew yelling for a king made in their image rather than a king who made them in His image. Is this you? Regardless, we are made in the Image of God, and all have the blood of Jesus on our hands? How? Why? Because just as Jesus has come to save all, all are found with blood on their hands through Adam's original sin. Are you crying for something the world has or do you turn to Jesus because **You Stain Your Hands with Jesus' Blood**.

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### **You Mock Jesus' Identity and Authority, 27:27-31**

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.*

I think sarcasm is a lost art form. Every time I meet someone new, and I make a sarcastic joke, I always must explain myself. Which means that the joke is no longer funny, so why say it? Anyways, Google defines sarcasm as *the use of irony to mock*. The Roman battalion, 600 soldiers roughly, have gathered Jesus to prepare him for his journey to his crucifixion. Sarcasm is the overarching tool of torture used by the Romans. They strip Jesus of his clothes and put a scarlet robe on him. A scarlet robe symbolizes honor and royalty. They press a crown of thorns into his head. The Caesar, king of Rome, wore a crown made of bay leaves which symbolizes absolute power. Then, they put a reed in his right hand rather than a staff that symbolizes authority.

The irony was not lost on Jesus during this mocking and torturing. When the Roman soldiers chanted "Hail, King of the Jews", the sarcasm was not lost on Jesus. However, the sarcasm of the Roman soldiers was lost on themselves. They were preparing and equipping the King of Kings for his enthronement. They did not know who they were doing these things to. The Romans soldiers just saw another Jew in front of them, not the Son of God. This is why they mock Jesus' identity and authority as the Son of God. Once they finish having their fill, they remove all they had given Jesus and taking up to be crucified.

I am not saying you have publicly mocked Jesus Christ, but maybe you have. Regardless, that doesn't matter because what God is concerned about if you. Every one of us were once separated by God and his presence. While we were separated from him, we mocked who he was without life because we did not see him as our king. Maybe you are here today and have been trying to figure out this Jesus thing or maybe you worry because you are not as good as your friends who are Christians. I want you to look around at everyone in the room this morning and know that we have all fallen short of God. We have all missed the mark and at one point have mocked Jesus either with our thoughts or actions. Know that **You Mock Jesus' Identity and Authority**. It is despite your mocking of Jesus like the Roman battalion that you can be saved this morning from yourself and your sin because **JESUS' EARTHLY**

**CRUCIFIXION IS HIS HEAVENLY ENTHRONEMENT AS OUR ETERNAL KING.**

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**The Second Point This Morning is that...**

**JESUS' CRUCIFIXION IS HIS CORONATION, Matthew 27:32-56**

**Your Cross Must Be Carried Up Hill, 27:32-33**

*As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),*

It is a beautiful illustration of Jesus' own words to his disciples. Jesus tells his disciples that they must take up their cross daily and follow me. Jesus never asks something of you he has not already done. This is why he came to us. Jesus came to not only live and walk among us but, to carry his cross up the hill. And just like Simon of Cyrene, your walk with Christ is carrying your cross up the hill to your death. Jesus compels us to die to our selves daily. This is what Jesus says those who follow him are supposed to do: *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.* Luke 9:23.

Church, **Your Cross Must Be Carried Up the Hill.**

**Your Understanding of God's Word is Crucial, 37:34-50**

Church, **Your Understanding of God's Word is Crucial** in his crucifixion. The Jewish people were waiting and looking for a king that looked more like Saul than Jesus. This is why they chose Barabbas over "The King of the Jews". However, this is one of my favorite things about the Bible, God time and time again subverts the world and its understanding of power, privilege, and authority. The first century Jew would read Psalm 2 and look for a king who would rule with a rod of iron, not a bruised reed. They were unable to see that the very Son of God stood before them. Jesus never claimed to be "King of the Jews", Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Church, it important that you understand that the entire Old Testament leads to Jesus on the cross.

**Your King's Throne is a Cross, 27:51-56**

Jesus arrives to the top of the hill and is nailed to the cross. Hands outstretched, he is naked and in pain. His mocking continues as those who pass by tell him to get down from the cross if he was the Messiah then they would believe. Is this you, do you not believe Jesus is the Savior of the World because he did not save himself. Don't misunderstand the Scriptures Church, Jesus' life was not given to Pontius Pilate to be crucified. Jesus stood silent as others mocked and led him to the cross. Jesus willfully gave his life as a ransom for many because he knew that to defeat death, he needs to sit on his throne. Just as a king on a golden throne gives decrees and statements

of authority, when Jesus says “It is finished”, he is decreeing that the penalty for death has been paid and we can now, as his subject respond “oh death, where is your sting!?”. Church, **Your King’s Throne is a Cross** because **JESUS’**

**EARTHLY CRUCIFIXION IS HIS HEAVENLY ENTHRONEMENT AS OUR ETERNAL KING.**

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**The Third Point This Morning is that...**

**JESUS’ BURIAL IS HIS CLOSING PROCESSION, Matthew 27:57-61**

*When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

**Your King’s Burial is Honorable, Secure, but is Not His Final Resting Place 27:57-61**

Jesus is taken down from his throne and the closing procession commences. Jesus is taken and buried in a tomb. He is wrapped fine linen and surrounded by spices. A boulder is rolled in front of its entrance sealing anyone from getting in or out. This giant boulder assures those who pass by that he indeed is dead. Church, **Your King’s Burial is Honorable, Secure, but is Not His Final Resting Place.** At the end of what is known as Good Friday, death appears to defeat the King of the Jews and he is left silent. However, Mary Magdalene and Mary were sitting opposite the tomb. Who knows what these two women were thinking. We can speculate. Perhaps they were grieving and not thinking it all possible that Jesus was alive. Or maybe they remembered the words of Jesus, that he still needed to fulfill his words and fulfill prophecy of Daniel and sit next to the Father on the throne in Heaven. Regardless, as followers of Jesus, we can rejoice those three days pass by and the tomb was empty! Our king is not in a tomb, He is in Heaven on his heavenly throne! Because **JESUS’ EARTHLY CRUCIFIXION IS HIS HEAVENLY ENTHRONEMENT AS OUR ETERNAL KING.**

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## CONCLUSION

Who is your king? Does your king look more like the King of England or Heaven? Was your king coronated with fanfare and praise or with anger and disdain? When you turn your eyes to the Kingdom of this World, you might see the gold, the silver, and the pageantry. However, this kingdom will waste away and burn up. Looking up at the cross, you do not see such celebration or comfort. When you look at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, you see

the King of Heaven seated on his throne. His walk up to the cross was not met with fans waving and praising his name but shouts of anger and disgust. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is not like an earthly kingdom, so why would the King of Heaven look anything like Earth?

The crucifixion is not a fairy tale or make-believe, it is very real. The story ends, or so we think, with our king nailed to a wooden cross naked, exhausted, and in pain. Do you find yourself in similar moments? Do you ever feel as though the loneliness is caving in, you feel too damaged and lost. You become short of breath because your friendship has fractured because of the long distance? This is the God who empathizes with us and hangs on a cross for all to see. So, when you are alone and afraid that no one knows or cares about you, understand your king knows you fully and perfectly. Know that as he was hanging on the cross, he knew you needed to have a unique and beautiful relationship with him. The cross is recognition that God wants to be in a relationship with you. Jesus loves you.

The cross is like a lighthouse on a rocky shore guiding all who see to safety. Jesus Christ is the beacon of hope. When you envision Jesus on the cross, know that you anticipate the penalty of sin paid for. If you do not know Jesus Christ and the world-changing cross, brothers, and sisters. I pray that you turn to the beginning of this book of Matthew and read the entire story. The cross is the apex of the Bible. The cross is the new tree of life, and Jesus is the new Adam. Unlike Adam, this is Good News that when Jesus was nailed to the cross, he did not stay there. This is Good News that when Jesus was buried in the tomb, he did not stay there. This is Good News: when Jesus rose on the third day, he did not stay here. Church, Jesus Christ is no longer on the cross, grave, or Earth. Jesus Christ is in Heaven, seated at the right hand of the Father and interceding for us to this very day. So, this morning and with Easter fast approaching, let us remind ourselves that our King and his Kingdom are not of this world because **JESUS' EARTHLY CRUCIFIXION IS HIS HEAVENLY ENTHRONEMENT AS OUR ETERNAL KING.**