

**Theme:** Jesus Draws People to Himself

**Object:** Several metal items and a magnet

**Scripture:** “...when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.”  
(John 12:32)

As you see, we have several small objects today. Here is paper clip, a washer, a nail and coin. What else do we have? (*Hold up the magnet.*) We also have a magnet. What do you think will happen if we hold the magnet over the different objects? Let's try it and see. Look how the paper clip and nail and other items are drawn to the magnet! The entire stack is clinging to the magnet. But, wait not the coin. Why? The magnet has great power and will draw many objects to itself. But not everything: only those things that God has made with the right elements for the magnet to draw.

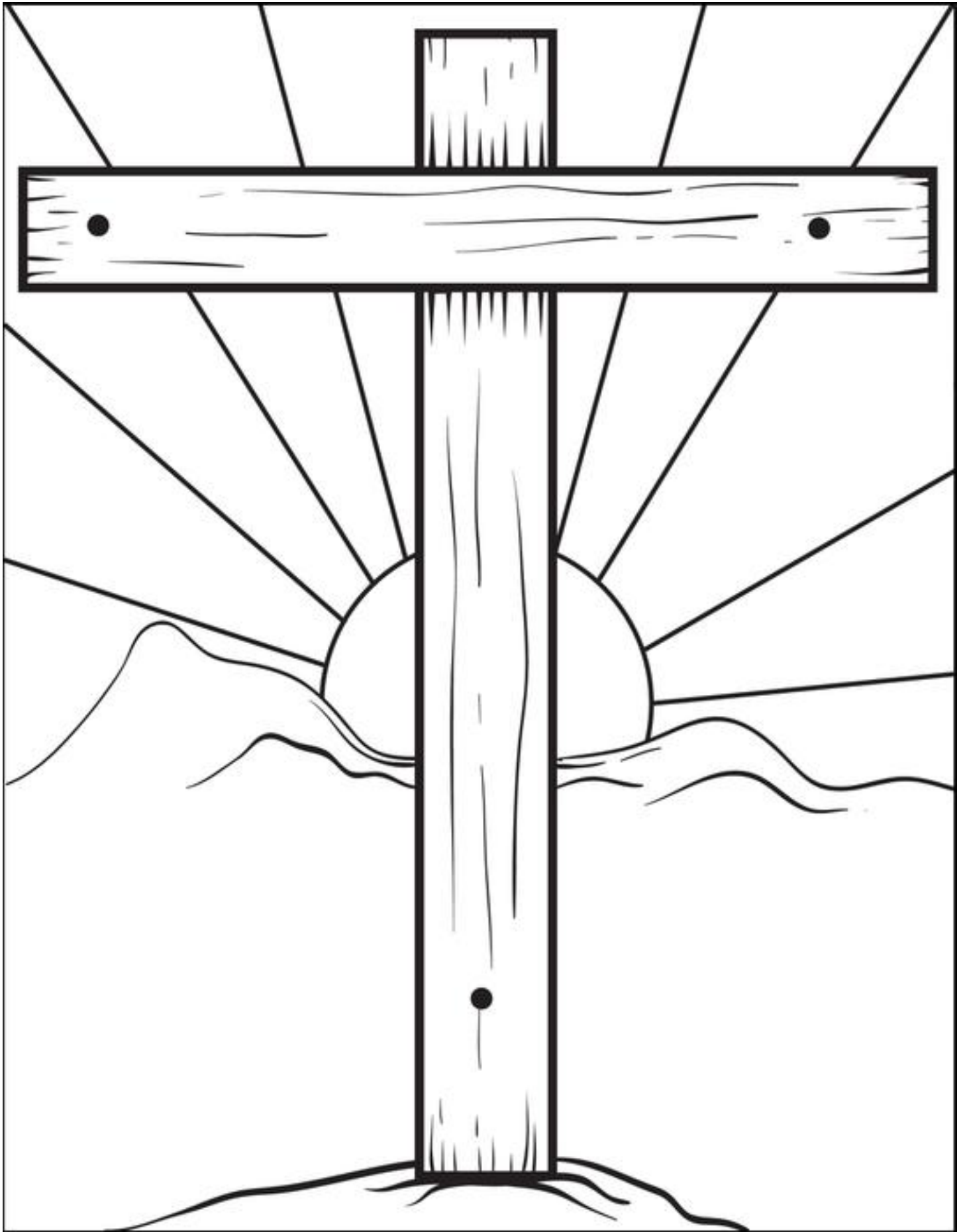
The drawing power of this magnet reminds me of something that Jesus taught about himself. The people who were following Jesus didn't understand why Jesus had come to earth. They thought that he had come to set up an earthly kingdom. But Jesus didn't come to build up an earthly kingdom. His kingdom is in heaven. He came to earth to die for our sins so that we could join Him in His heavenly kingdom. Jesus knew that the day of His crucifixion and return to heaven was near, so he spoke to His followers, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour... ‘When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself.’ ” (John 12:27 & 32)  
The Bible tells us that Jesus told the people this so that they would know how He was going to die.

The drawing power of this magnet is very strong, but it is nothing compared to the drawing power of Jesus. He willingly died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. When we see His great love, we are drawn to Him and when we trust in Him, we receive the right to become the children of God.

Even after we become God's children, there may be times when we stray from His teaching and do things that we know are not pleasing to Him. Does Jesus stop loving us? No. His love for us is so strong that He draws us back to Him.

There is no power stronger than the love of Jesus. He was lifted up on the cross so that everyone who God has called would be drawn to him.

Father, we thank You that Jesus was willing to be lifted up on the cross of Calvary so that we might have eternal life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



John 19:17-30

## **Crucifixion of Christ**

### **Opening**

I begin this morning taking some verses out of order because I want to save the best for last. Chapter 19 of John is a difficult chapter; it is one of horror, but also our greatest hope. I wept as I studied this week, I wept as I took in what Jesus has done for all people God has chosen. I am so unworthy and yet so blessed. All I can say is, “Thank you, God for my salvation!” He loves so deeply, so completely. How can one not be moved with emotion of joy and sorrow and thankfulness? Even at the end of His human life, Jesus loved.

### **Love Expressed**

Reading from verse 25, “standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ **27** Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.” Here we find four women faithful to Jesus. Mary the mother of Jesus is here supporting her Son until the end. Was she aware this was not the end? I think she knew it was not, even if she did not understand how it was not.

Remember 33 years earlier Joseph and Mary traveled to Jerusalem and brought Jesus to the temple to be presented. There was a righteous man named Simeon to whom God had promised he would see the Messiah in his lifetime. Simeon

took the baby Jesus in his arms and said, “...my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” (Luke 2:30-32) Simeon pronounces the arrival of the Messiah in the temple. This Messiah was for both the Gentiles and the Jews. He blesses Joseph, and Mary and Jesus. However, he ends by saying, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35) Now 33 years later, Joseph is not here, mostly likely he has already died. But, Mary is ever present and indeed Simeon’s words have now come true, “a sword will pierce through your own soul” Mary’s heart is torn in two by the suffering of her Son; but for Mary it has always been about Jesus, not about her. Mary endured her own suffering, knowing Jesus who was fulfilling God’s plan, as Simeon prophesied.

They wait not at the foot of the cross but some distance away, yet still close enough to hear. Jesus is ready to give up His life, He is dying and has the burden of bearing the sin of mankind and the wrath of God the Father, but takes the time to show love for the woman God chose to give Him mortal life. The Gospel According to John is the only gospel account that mentions Jesus’ mother is here at the cross in His final moments. Maybe that is because Jesus entrusted His mother’s care to John. Jesus looks down from the cross of suffering into the eyes of His mother and says, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then turning His attention to the disciple He loved saying, “Behold, your mother!” This is the Jesus who came so that God the Father would adopt us, thus we become God’s children of promise. Jesus had John adopt His mother. All who look upon Jesus and believe are never alone. Jesus’ love spans not only the universe, tribes and languages but

generation upon generation until He returns. “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

Simeon understood who Jesus was, Mary understood as well as the other women and John. Pilate may not have believed or understood, but he served God all the same!

### **Title of King Written**

We begin reading again with verses 19 to 22, “Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ **20** Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. **21** So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’ ” **22** Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

Pilate’s dislike of the Jews prompted him to take a parting shot and it may have been meant to pay them back for their blackmailing him into ordering Jesus’ execution. Above Jesus on the cross the sign read “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Pilate wanted to make sure no one missed this statement, so the sign “was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.” These were the three most commonly spoken languages in Palestine. Pilate’s sign also identified Jesus as Nazarene. Nazareth was an unimportant village from the insignificant province of Galilee. Remember when Philip told Nathanael that they had found the Messiah spoken of by Moses and that he was from Nazareth. Nathanael replied, “Can

anything good come out of Nazareth?” This statement helps one understand the general feeling of Jews about the little village of Nazareth in the unimportant province of Galilee.

The chief priests come begging Pilate to remove the sign or reword it. I am sure this strengthened Pilate’s resolve to keep the sign as it was. Pilate responds to their pleading, “What I have written I have written.” Thus God uses the self-motivated efforts of both the Roman procurator and the chief priests to pronounce to all who saw that Jesus was indeed the King of the Jews.

We have explored Jesus’ expression of love from the cross and His rightful title. How do these affect us, affect us here today?

### **Greatest Act of Love**

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:7-12) Is this not the purpose of Jesus’ crucifixion? The crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ is the culmination of redemptive history and the crucial point of God’s plan of salvation – what an expression of sacrificial love. Let me ask, “How much do you love Jesus?” Do you love Jesus enough to give your life for your faith in Him?

He gave His life for each of you and for all whom God has called that we might have salvation. If Jesus gave His all for you and then one of the greatest evidence's of your faith in Him is as John writes, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God... 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." Then what is the evidence of your love for Christ by your sacrificial love for your brothers and sisters in this room? What does it mean to have a covenant church of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be a member of Canyon Bible Church? You need to ask yourself these questions and God deserves an answer followed by action!

While the Cross of Christ showed the world the depth of God's redeeming love for those He calls it was also an example of the depth of man's complete depravity. When there is an absence of God and His love, man's heart is depraved!

It was at the cross that God, the creator of all, used the evil plots of Satan and men to bring His plan of salvation to fruition. Jesus' action echoed the words of Joseph to his brothers, "... you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive ..." (Genesis 50:20) Like Joseph's brothers sin condemned them, mankind's sins condemns them to spiritual death and eternal separation from God. The only solution to sin and spiritual death is found in Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross to atone for our sins. Jesus gave His life that we might live forever. John gave this warning earlier in his gospel, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:36)

So it is by the Cross of Christ, the final permanent sacrifice, that those who place



their faith, their lives and their souls in Christ are saved. Jesus said that He would draw people to Himself by the cross and by His resurrection, and by His love for people - this is not seen in the world anywhere else. Recorded in chapter twelve of John, Jesus says, “... when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32) Those who look upon Jesus and believe in Him, as the Christ, will be saved from the slavery of sin and receive eternal life.

The Apostle John wove the theme throughout his gospel account of Jesus as the Son of God, as God incarnate and as God of glory. Therefore, John does not go into the detail of the physical sufferings of Jesus that the other gospel writers do. For John focuses is on Christ’s person and the fulfillment of the prophecies and the importance of what Pilate wrote and placed on the cross. For these fulfilled prophecy.

### **Prophecy Fulfilled**

What are the odds?

- A meteorite striking your house =  $1.8 \times 10^{14}$  or 1 in 180,000,000,000,000
- Being struck by lightning on any given day =  $25 \times 10^7$  or 1 in 250,000,000
- Being struck by lightning in a year =  $7 \times 10^5$  or 1 in 700,000
- Being struck by lightning over the average lifetime =  $9 \times 10^3$  or 1 in 9,000
- That you will eventually die (*unless Jesus returns*) = 1 in 1
- The Canyon Bible Church trailer will be stolen = 100%
- Jesus to fulfill the prophecies of the crucifixion =  $2.6 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^2 \times 10^3 \times 10^5 \times 10^3 \times 10^4$  or 1 in  $10^{28}$
- Jesus to full all the prophesies for the Messiah in the scriptures = 1 in  $10^{157}$

I want to spend some time looking at some of those fulfilled prophecies. Reading beginning in verse 17 of John 19, “So they took Jesus, **17** and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. **18** There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.”

**23** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, **24** so they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.’ This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, ‘They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. So the soldiers did these things...’

These verses are historical narrative, and they are both clear and brief concerning Jesus’ crucifixion. They also directly or indirectly take us to prophecies and their fulfillment. This should not surprise us; it certainly did not surprise Paul for he wrote, “For **all** the promises of God find their Yes in **him** (*Jesus*). That is why it is through **him** (*Jesus*) that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.” (2 Corinthians 1:20) By the way, anytime you hear the truth of God preached here at Canyon Bible you are welcome to say an “Amen.” The Old Testament speaks of the coming Christ and the New Testament speaks of Christ who has come and will come again. The Old and New validate each other.

Our passage begins with “So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross.” (v.17) Now, John does not go into the detail that Matthew, Mark and Luke do, but all of these gospel accounts indicate that Jesus went willingly for He knew the will of the Father. Isaiah wrote of this very event as well as some of things

that had already happened to Christ. Isaiah wrote, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; **like a lamb that is led to the slaughter**, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7) It gives wonder to my mind and heart as I think of the visions and dreams Isaiah had of the coming Messiah. Amazing!

Back to our scripture passage, “**So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross.**” (v.17) Jesus had been severely beaten but Roman protocol was for the condemned man to carry his cross. This was meant as a deterrent for people who witnessed the beaten and bloody person carrying their own cross and the sight of 2 to 3 day crucifixion. This demonstrated the cost of violating Roman law. But, in Jesus’ case there was foreshadow of this event. Think back to Abraham and Isaac. In Genesis as Abraham and Isaac approached the site of the sacrifice they left the servants behind. “**Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. Both Jesus and Isaac bore the wood for their sacrifice. And he Abraham took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.**” (Genesis 22:6) Isaac was spared for through his lineage would come the Messiah, but the Messiah would not be spared for He is the final sacrifice.

Both Jewish sacrifice ritual and Roman practice required the carcass of the bull for a blood sacrifice and executions to take place outside the city walls. Exodus 29 speaks to this and this is also foreshadowing how temporary sacrifices would point to Jesus the final sacrifice. The writer of Hebrews comments, “**For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.**” (Hebrews

13:11-12)

As we continue in John, “So they took Jesus, **17** and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called **Golgotha.**” The name in Aramaic is “**Golgotha**” and in Latin the word is “Calvary.” The location of Calvary is not certain, but is believed to be north of the city. What is interesting is that crucifixion was not a Roman invention of execution. It originated in Persia or today known as Iran and from there to the Phoenicians and from the Phoenicians to the Romans. It was chosen because it prolonged the suffering for as long as 2 to 3 days. The body suffered exhaustion, dehydration and finally suffocation when the person could no longer raise himself to breathe. This is further evidence that Jesus gave up His life by His own timing when He had fulfilled the final element needed for God’s plan of salvation.

The cross of crucifixion takes me back to Numbers where the people complained against God and Moses. The Lord sent fiery serpents and they bit the people and many died. The Lord directed Moses to make a bronze serpent on a long pole or standard and if the people looked up to the bronze serpent they lived. Just as today if people look upon the cross of Christ and believe they will be saved.

Some of you may have wondered why the scripture reading today was from Psalm 22 instead of John 19. There are many remarkable parallels between Psalm 22 and the crucifixion of Jesus. Take time this week to read Psalm 22 and then John 19 and compare. David, as he wrote Psalm 22, had no knowledge of crucifixion as method of execution for it had not come to the Romans yet and the Romans had not come to Palestine yet.

Psalm 22 begins, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (v.1) We find Jesus saying these same words from the cross, not in John, but in Matthew, “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46).

We continue to compare what Matthew wrote with what David. Matthew writes, **39** “And those who passed by derided him, **wagging their heads** **40** 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.’ **41** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, **42** ‘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. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” (Matthew 27:39-43) Now listen to Psalm 22 concerning Jesus’ suffering and the actions and words of people, “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!” (Psalm 22:6-8) King David wrote of Jesus’ suffering, “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.**” (Psalm 22:14-16) Do you recognize the events of Jesus’ last week?

A Roman execution squad normally consisted of 4 soldiers commanded by a Centurion. Beginning in John 19 verse 23, “When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,

they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, **24** so they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.’ This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, ‘They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.’ So the soldiers did these things.” Where do we find this scripture fulfilled? In David’s Psalm 22, “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.” (Psalm 22:17-18)

John continues in verse 18, “There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.” Listen while I read Isaiah 53:12, “~~he~~ *Jesus* poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors *(The Hebrew word translated as “transgressors” means to act as a criminal. Jesus was on the cross between two transgressors or criminals. Continuing reading from Isaiah); yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*” I am telling you I would have been awed to be the servant of Isaiah. What a man of God!

I finish my prophecy comparison with John 19:28 and 29, “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “**I thirst.**” **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.” We compare these verses to, “my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and **my tongue sticks to my jaws**; you lay me in the dust of death.” (Psalm 22:15)

Jesus, God incarnate, was a divine person of wisdom, miracles, power, healings, fulfilled prophecy and so much more. Jesus is God of the universe and also He is

God of science and math. Jesus is God according man's greatest mathematicians, a God of 1 to  $10^{157\text{th}}$  power. Scientists in their calculations consider anything beyond 1 in  $10^{50\text{th}}$  power impossible. Jesus proves both science and math and because He is God the Creator He also shows those of great intellect that is both true and beyond their ability to define. What an amazing God who gave His life that we might have salvation, and have a relationship with Him and know Him! We live in the world of the physical, but when we accept Jesus as our Savior we also begin living in the world of God, the spiritual.

As we saw this morning through the writings of John and the words of Jesus – God is in control and He will fulfill His plan as He has designed it. No one, absolutely no one, could prevent God from His plan of salvation.

We finish by reading verses 28 to 30 of John 19, *“After this, Jesus, (Jesus having provided for His mother and) knowing that all was now finished (God's plan of salvation was complete Jesus), said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”* **29** *A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.* **30** *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

We know from both Matthew and Mark the Jesus did not say, *“It is finished”* but rather He shouted it. It was a shout of triumph, He as God was the victor. Satan had lost all. Jesus had been beaten, nailed to a cross and He still had the strength to shout for all to hear. He was not at the end of His physical strength! But, since Jesus' work was complete He did not wait around for the normal 2 to 3 days to die from this most cruel form of execution. Jesus made the decision to give up His mortal life. Men did not take it.

Jesus' work of redemption that God the Father had given to Him was accomplished and the sin of mankind, your sin and my sin, had been atoned for. Jesus shouts with triumph – "It is Finished" But, this is not the end of the story, in case you have not read ahead to know the rest of the story - He lives and He will return!

Praise God! Do I hear an Amen?