

The Guilty and the Innocent

Wednesday Gathering; Week of Sunday, June 30, 2019; Markes Wilson

Sermon Theme – Jesus Christ, the ultimate innocent and perfect One, was condemned as guilty by unjust powers in the 1st century. But this is a shadow of the real guilt Jesus bore in the cup of God’s wrath to make sinners righteous. We are the guilty, and through Jesus’ suffering, we are able to be made ‘innocent’ – righteous through Christ. What a beautiful mystery!

I. The Innocent Is Made Guilty– Read Mark 15:1-37

- A. Outside of Good Friday and Easter, do you spend time reading and meditating on the gospels’ accounts of Christ’s crucifixion? Amidst all the distractions in life, how do you keep the death and resurrection of Christ – the central events of the gospel – forefront in your mind?
- B. Beginning in Mark 14:43 with Jesus’ arrest “as against a robber,” we continually see Jesus, the innocent One, treated as guilty. In what other ways is Jesus treated as guilty in this account?
- C. Mark records that Jesus is mocked and derided throughout the entirety of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion – even by the criminals who were crucified beside Him. While you were not present at Christ’s crucifixion, how have you mocked Christ in your life? Do you see your mocking of Christ as deserving of judgment?
- D. Of all the anguish Christ endured throughout His trial and crucifixion, what was the most excruciating part (i.e. the cup)? As you think about sin in your life, what is the “sting” of sin? Is it the consequences? Guilt? Shame? Or is it separation / broken fellowship with God?

II. The Fulfillment of All History – Read Mark 15:38-41

- A. Beginning in the garden of Eden, how does the image of the veil in Mark 15:38 summarize all of history? What is the significance of the veil being torn?
- B. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the centurion’s words. Both Matthew and Mark record the centurion saying, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:38; Matthew 27:54). Luke records the centurion saying, “Certainly this man was innocent” (Luke 23:47). Is there a difference in these sayings? How does the centurion’s confession here in Mark compare to similar confessions made in the gospel (8:27-30; 10:46-52)?
- C. Read Hebrews 9:11-12 and Hebrews 10:19-20. What do these verses tell us about the veil and the believer’s access to the Father through Christ? How has Christ’s work bridged the separation between God and the one who has trusted in Christ for salvation?

III. The Guilty Are Made Innocent – Read Hebrews 10:19-25

- A. In light of Christ’s sacrifice on behalf of the believer, how should believers respond to the forgiveness and grace that have been shown them? Where does the believer’s conviction rest?
- B. How does the reality that Jesus became guilty so that you can be made innocent (righteous) in God’s sight change the way you interact with others? Do you love others as Christ has loved you?