

Wyoming Baptist Church Spring 2021

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**Sermon Series Devotional Guide**

# He is Risen

This week we take a bit of a break from our usual study to focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Traditionally, this is a very solemn week in the life of the church as we think of our Lord's crucifixion and our sin that nailed him there. But the truth is, we worship a risen Saviour, not a dead martyr. So, the last part of our week, we'll also be meditating on the truth of the resurrection.

But we begin focusing on the cross of Christ. And when you think of it, it seems like a strange place to start. For many in our culture, the cross has become a piece of jewelry or an adornment for a church building. At the time of Jesus however, the cross wasn't a religious symbol it was an instrument of torture and shame. It was viewed a disgusting, revolting and cursed. (see Deuteronomy 21:23)

Alister MacGrath likens the early Christian preaching of the cross to a modern business or corporation choosing a hangman's noose, lynching tree, firing squad, gas chamber or electric chair as its logo. What advertising agency would advise you to choose an instrument of execution as the symbol of your organization? "Its members would instantly be regarded as perverted, sick, having a morbid obsession with death, or having a nauseating interest in human suffering....Only an organization determined to fail as quickly and spectacularly as possible would be mad enough to choose such a symbol."

But that's what the early Christians did. They made it the center of their faith. So Paul would say to the Galatians, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

As you prepare to go through the study this week, ask that the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus would be brought home to your heart again. Pray that the sacrifice of Jesus would be the center of your faith and witness.

## ***Monday March 29***

### **Read**

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❖ John 18:28-40

### **Study**

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1. Previous to this, Jesus has been arrested while in the garden. The high priest has questioned him and Peter has denied him three times. It is clear in our text that the Jewish authorities want Jesus dead. Why don't they execute Jesus themselves?

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2. When Pilate questions Jesus, what does he discover?

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3. What is the nature of Jesus' kingship? How is it different from Pilate's rule?

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4. What does this title tell you about the sin of those who want Jesus dead and the wonder of his sacrifice? How does Jesus appeal to Pilate? (verse 37)

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5. What is Pilate's conclusion about Jesus?

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6. What feelings do these events evoke in you toward Jesus?  
Toward Pilate?

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### Notes

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- ❖ John 18:29 At this time Rome ruled the ancient world. The governor or prefect they placed over Judah was Pontius Pilate. He was in charge of keeping the peace and furthering the ideas and plans of Rome. The Jews hated him, and for good reason. He once provoked them by having his soldiers parading down the street on a Jewish holy day carrying a portrait of the emperor. The Jews saw it as an idol. Believing it to be an act of blasphemy, the Jews rioted, and Pilate was severely reprimanded by his superiors in Rome. So, when the Jewish officials bring Jesus to Pilate he wants to do two things: he wants to win back their favour, and he wants to avoid any more undo attention from Rome.

### Reflect

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- ❖ Think about Jesus' Kingship. Is he King of your life? Are there any areas in your life marked "out of bounds" to Jesus?

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## Pray

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- ❖ Use Psalm 24:7-10 to shape your personal prayer:

*“Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is He, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory.”*

*For our church:*

- ❖ Pray for our partners in mission, Bill and Janice Dyck. As they are now on furlough pray that they will know God’s leading and presence. Pray for their ministries in Bolivia. Janice has been teaching music to vulnerable children in the “red light” district of Cochabamba and taking part in the worship team at their local church. Bill has been helping to organize support for pastors through a ministry called Pastoring of Pastors, in addition to teaching and guest speaking.
- ❖ Pray for the church in Bolivia. Pray that it will be strengthened by the truth of God’s word and know spiritual growth in the midst of difficult times.
- ❖ As we begin the visioning process tonight. Pray that God will grant us a vision that glorifies him and exalts the Jesus Christ.