

Matthew 20:17-19: And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

Intro: Last week we studied the parable of the amazing grace of the master:

- **Matthew 19:30:** But many who are first will be last, and the last first. **"For"** – then the parable. And then:

- **Matthew 20:16:** So the last will be first, and the first last.

JMac: The only way the first are last & the last are first is if everyone finishes the race at the same time!

In the kingdom of heaven, there will be no sinful comparisons or works-righteousness legalism; God always does what's right; God is absolutely sovereign & free to give grace to whom He pleases; God is extravagantly generous, so we should be thankful & amazed by grace; & all God's children are fundamentally equal in His sight.

Today we see Jesus focus His disciples' hearts & minds on the first & primary reality that will make all of the amazing grace we receive possible: the deliverance, sufferings, death, & resurrection of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.

1. Jesus Is Going Up To Jerusalem To Die

Matthew 20:17-18: And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem.

What is the significance of Jesus dying in Jerusalem? (A brief Biblical theology of Jerusalem)

a. This is the city where God put His name forever: 2 Kings 21:7: In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.

b. This is the city where God dwells forever: 1 Chronicles 23:25: For David said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people, and he dwells in Jerusalem forever."

c. Jerusalem is sometimes used as a representative term to describe God's people/God's kingdom: Ezekiel 16:2-3: Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, & say, Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: Your origin & your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite & your mother a Hittite.

Revelation 21:2: And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

d. God made Jerusalem to be the perfection of beauty & the joy of all the earth: Lamentations 2:15: All who pass along the way clap their hands at you; they hiss and wag their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem; "Is this the city that was called the perfection of beauty, the joy of all the earth?"

- **Psalms 137:6:** Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy!

- **Song of Solomon 6:4:** You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, lovely as Jerusalem

e. God set Jerusalem at the center of the earth: Ezekiel 5:5: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

f. Jerusalem is the city of the great King: Matthew 5:35: Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (Ps. 48)

g. God ordained Jerusalem to be where His temple would be built, which is His dwelling place & where sacrifices were offered: 2 Chronicles 11:16: those who had set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

h. God punished Jerusalem for her sins: 1 Chronicles 6:15: Jehozadak went into exile when the LORD sent Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

2 Chronicles 29:8: Therefore the wrath of the LORD came on Judah and Jerusalem, and he has made them an object of horror, of astonishment, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes.

i. God promised to restore and redeem Jerusalem: Luke 2:38: coming up at that very hour she [Anna] began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

- **Joel 3:20:** But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations.

- **Zechariah 1:16-17:** Therefore, thus says the LORD, I have returned to Jerusalem with mercy; my house shall be built in it, declares the LORD of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. ¹⁷ Cry out again, Thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.

- **Zechariah 8:7-8:** Thus says the LORD of hosts: behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, ⁸ and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

- **Zechariah 12:10:** And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

- **Zechariah 13:1:** On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

j. Jesus is the fulfillment of all of these promises: Luke 18:31: taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished."

Jesus is the new & better Jerusalem! Jesus bears God's name forever: Immanuel; Jesus is the very presence of God forever because He is God!; Jesus is our heavenly Husband, & we are His bride: one flesh with Him so He totally identifies with us, His people (Paul's conversion); Jesus is the perfection of beauty & the joy of all the earth! Jesus is our highest joy!; Jesus Christ & His finished work is the center of everything in our lives & faith; He died in the center of the nations & came to ransom people from every tribe, tongue, language, & nation; Jesus is the great King!; Jesus is the final & only fully effective sacrifice for sins; Jesus is the temple Who was destroyed for our sins & exiled for our sins, but in three days He was restored, & He rose up from the dead! (City/Foundation of Peace)

k. Because of Jesus' finished work, we come to the heavenly Jerusalem to worship, & we are the New Jerusalem in Christ: Hebrews 12:22-24: But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Revelation 21:2, 10-11: I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband . . . ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Palmer Robertson: This land was made for Jesus Christ. All its diversity was designed to serve Him. Its character as a land bridge for three continents was crafted at Creation for His strategic role in the history of humanity. Even today all nations flow constantly to this place, for it is uniquely his land, the focal point of the world.

Isaiah 35:10: the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

2. Jesus Told His Disciples This News Privately

Matthew 20:17: And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside

D. A. Carson: Only the twelve were remotely ready for this passion [prophecy].

And they didn't even get it! We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes!

Jesus knows when to say what: **John 16:12:** I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Jesus knows best. Jesus tells us in the best way. Jesus tells us at the right time. Will you trust Him? Imitate Him?

3. Jesus Would Be Delivered Over

Matthew 20:18-19: See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests & scribes, & they will condemn him to death & deliver him over to the Gentiles

a. Judas delivered Jesus over, & the chief priests & scribes delivered Jesus over: Judas betrayed Jesus; a great crowd with swords & clubs from the chief priests & elders of the people (Matt. 26:47) came to arrest Jesus; & then the chief priests & scribes unjustly delivered Jesus over to the Romans (Gentiles); who unjustly put Him to death.

b. But in all of this sinful delivering over of Jesus by sinful men, God delivered Jesus over to accomplish His perfect purposes: Acts 2:22-24: Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works & wonders & signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan & foreknowledge of God, you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- **Acts 4:26-28:** The kings of the earth set themselves, & the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord & against his Anointed for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles & the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand & your plan had predestined to take place.

- **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

God ruled & reigned over the greatest evil in the universe! And what they meant for evil, God meant for good! God will do the same in your life, dear believer! **Romans 8:28**

c. Jesus delivered Himself up to be crucified for you because He loves you: Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

d. We all delivered Jesus up to be crucified because He died for us: Romans 4:25: who was delivered up for our trespasses; **Martin Luther:** We all carry His nails in our pockets. **GOSPEL!**

4. Jesus Would Be Condemned By Men

Matthew 20:18: See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death

Jesus was/is the perfect, sinless man. But He was falsely accused, lied about, & wrongly condemned: **Proverbs 17:15:** He who justifies the wicked & he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

5. Jesus Would Be Tortured By Men

Matthew 20:19: and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified

Klaas Schilder: According to the descriptions given in numerous books, the scourged person was stripped down to the loins & was bound fast to a post or pillar in such a way that he had to stand with bent back & with his head bowed toward the ground. In that way the first stroke had to succeed in drawing blood. Accordingly, we can easily understand that in some descriptions of scourgings which took place, we read that the strokes of the whip sometimes tore the flesh so badly that the human skeleton became visible as a result. In order to aggravate the pain even more, barbs, pieces of bone, or knots were woven into the scourge

Isaiah 52:14: As many were astonished at you - his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind

6. Jesus Would Be Crucified

Matthew 20:19: and crucified

a. Jesus was stricken & smitten by God: Isaiah 53:4: Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

b. Jesus was pierced with the sword of God's anger: Mark 14:27: And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" (Zechariah 13:7)

c. Jesus was crushed by God: Isaiah 53:10: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him

d. Jesus was cursed by God: Galatians 3:13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

e. Jesus was the propitiation of God's anger: Romans 3:24-25; 1 John 4:10: Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood . . . 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.

f. Jesus drank the cup that contained God's anger: Matt. 26:39: & going a little farther he fell on his face & prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Isaiah 51:17: Wake yourself, wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to the dregs the bowl, the cup of staggering.

g. Jesus was forsaken by God: Matthew 27:46: 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?"

h. Jesus was not spared by God: Rom. 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all

i. God was angry with Jesus Christ His Son & Anointed One: Psalm 89:38: But you have rejected, you have spurned, you have been very angry with your anointed one.

7. Jesus Would Be Raised On The Third Day

Matthew 20:19: and he will be raised on the third day.

a. Who raised Jesus from the dead?

1) God the Father did: **Galatians 1:1:** God the Father, who raised him from the dead . . .

2) God the Son did: **John 2:19:** Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

3) God the Holy Spirit did: **Romans 8:11:** If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you

4) God did: **Acts 13:30:** But God raised him from the dead . . . (**The Trinity!**)

Side note: Oneness pentecostalism; Gino Jennings; The word “Trinity” is not in the Bible; Jesus taught the concept of “Resurrection” from a passage of Scripture that doesn’t use the word “Resurrection”! **Matthew 22:29-33:** But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: ³² 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living." ³³ And when the crowd heard it, they were astonished at his teaching.

b. Why was Jesus raised from the dead? Jesus was raised on the third day to fulfill God's promises about Jesus in the Old Testament

Jesus was raised on the third day to fulfill what Jesus said He would do

Jesus was raised on the third day for our justification

Jesus was raised on the third day so our faith won't be futile

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would be raised imperishable

Jesus was raised on the third day so Jesus would be a life giving spirit

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would bear the likeness of the man from heaven

Jesus was raised on the third day so death would be swallowed up in victory

Jesus was raised on the third day so Christ would be the firstfruits

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would have new life full of love & holiness as those dead to sin and alive to righteousness

Jesus was raised on the third day to show it was impossible for death to hold Jesus

Jesus was raised on the third day to give us repentance and forgiveness of sins

Jesus was raised on the third day so Jesus would be declared the Son of God with power

Jesus was raised on the third day so Jesus would be the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would have the powerful life of the Spirit of God dwell in us

Jesus was raised on the third day so no one or no thing can ever condemn us

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would be delivered from the wrath to come

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would believe and be saved

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would enjoy God's presence

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would be born again to a living hope in God

Jesus was raised on the third day so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Jesus was raised on the third day to prove Jesus is the Messiah

Jesus was raised on the third day to show Jesus is God

Jesus was raised on the third day to show God will judge the world through Jesus Christ

Jesus was raised on the third day so we would seek the things above and Christ would be all in all

c. Why was Jesus raised on the third day? Jason DeRuchie: It was “on the third day” of his journey to sacrifice his son that Abraham promised his servants, “I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you” (Genesis 22:4–5); The Old Testament anticipates the (third-day) resurrection of God’s people following an exilic death: **Hosea 6:2:** After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him . . . Jesus Christ’s resurrection on the third day fulfills Old Testament [prophecy].

8. Jesus Knows All Things

This is Jesus' 3rd/4th declaration (Chap. 16; two in Chap. 17?) of His death/resurrection in Matthew’s Gospel. Jesus told His disciples what was going to happen to Him **in detail!** He knew this because He knows His O. T., & He knows all happenings! He not only knows all happenings, He knows all possibilities of all possible happenings!

- **Matt. 11:23:** For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day

All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge belong to Jesus: Colossians 2:3: in [Jesus Christ] . . . are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

All the fullness of God is His: Colossians 2:9: For in [Jesus Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Jesus knows the thoughts of man: Matthew 9:4: But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Jesus knew where a colt was tied up for His own use: Matthew 21:2: Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me.

Jesus knew that a shekel would be found in the mouth of the first fish His disciples caught: Matthew 17:27

Jesus knew who would believe in Him & who would betray Him: John 6:64: For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.

Only God can do this. Jesus is God! He is worthy of your total, absolute, & complete trust! He knows all about your pains, all about your fears, all about your weaknesses, your hopes, your dreams, your trials, your losses, your hardships, your health! & He not only knows, but He cares & promises to work them all out for good!

D. A. Carson: The entire Bible pivots on one weekend in Jerusalem about two thousand years ago.

1 Cor. 2:2: For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Cor. 15:3-4: For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

Galatians 6:14: But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Bryan Chapell: As I was pastoring the rural church attended by farmers & coal miners – people accustomed to hard lives – I heard a story that taught me more about the nature & foundation of true faith than I had gained in much of my seminary education. The story tells of a miner who, though a stalwart believer, was injured at a young age. He became an invalid. Over the years he watched through a window near his bed as life passed him by. He watched fellow workers marry, raise families, & have grandchildren. He watched the company he had served thrive without attempting to make adequate provision for his loss. He watched as his body withered, his house crumbled, & hope for better things in this life died. Then, one day when the bedridden miner was quite old, a younger man came to visit him: "I hear that you believe in God and claim that he loves you," said the young man. "How can you believe such things after all that has happened to you?" The old man hesitated & then smiled. He said, "Yes, there are days of doubt. Sometimes Satan comes calling on me in this fallen-down old house of mine. He sits right there by my bed, where you are sitting now. He points out my window to the men I once worked with whose bodies are still strong, & Satan asks, 'Does Jesus love you?' Then, Satan makes me look at my tattered room as he points to the fine homes of my friends & asks again, 'Does Jesus love you?' Finally, Satan points to the grandchild of a friend of mine – a man who has everything I do not – & Satan waits for the tear in my eye before he whispers in my ear, 'Does Jesus really love you?'" Startled by the candor of the old man's responses, the younger man asked, "And what do you say when Satan speaks to you that way?" The old miner said, "I take Satan by the hand, & I lead him to a hill far away called Calvary. There I point to the nail-pierced hands, the thorn-torn brow, & the spear-pierced side. Then I say to Satan, 'Doesn't Jesus love me!'"

Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus focuses His disciples' hearts & minds on the first & primary reality that will make all of the amazing grace we receive possible: the deliverance, sufferings, death, & resurrection of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.

**Jesus Was Accused, Used, Bruised, And Spitefully Abused
Then Rose Enthused
So The Sting Of Death Would Be Defused
And We Would Never Be Refused!**

It's perfect Love Who leads the way
Toward death and pain and friend's betray
The Father's wrath His life would slay
But Love goes forth – He will not sway
Like a rock on strong display
His love for you won't turn away
To pay sin's debt the price He'll pay
And rise again without decay
So you can then forever say
“My Christ is all! Him I'll obey!
His wondrous cross will be my stay!
A love past knowing I'll survey!”
All because He led the way
Then died and rose that great third day!

In Christ you do not have to fear
In all your trials He will be near
Even if you face the spear
Or lose that one you held most dear
He'll be with you to dry the tear
For He will always love sincere
And He's the One Who is most dear
So rise and praise and sing and cheer
For Him Who died your sins to clear
He took upon Himself the sneer
And had His side pierced with a spear
They spit on Him and beat severe
But He would live – come from the rear
Up from the grave He did appear
He reigns o'er all in every sphere!

He knows all things before they are
He knew from justice they'd stray far
He knew His body they would jar
And on His back they'd whip and mar
The crown of thorns His head would scar
They raised Him up on a crossbar
He died and rose – the morning Star
And lives forever with the scar
To love and change the way you are!

Jesus was made sin in our place
Our wickedness and sin so base
He did, in love, it all embrace
And in return He gives us grace
For all our sins He did erase

And take upon His life disgrace
So we could be a holy race
And after God we wholly chase
We long to see His holy face
Who died and rose to give us grace!

When He died upon that tree
The greatest love of all we see
It passes knowledge – vast and free
It's deeper than the deepest sea
And from its grip you cannot flee
For holy living, it's the key
So come to God – the One in Three
Turn from your sin – this is His plea
And trust the Son Who died for thee
Into His loving arms you'll flee
And there forever happy be!

Christ Jesus Took All Condemnation
He's Hope, He's Joy: The Incarnation
Went Up To Jerusalem On Station
The Heart Of The Earth And All Creation
To Ransom A People From Every Nation
Delivered By Men Who Deserve Damnation
Delivered By God Our Propitiation
Mocked And Flogged In Humiliation
Crucified And Died To Bring Salvation
Then Rose Up Alive For Our Justification
This Is The Center, Our Preoccupation
The First Of Importance, Our Firm Foundation
The Deepest Cause Of All Celebration
The End Of Our Joy Quest Consummation
For Christ Is All Our Exhilaration!