Even Death on a Cross

Brent Moody · Philippians 2:1–16

INTRODUCTION

- Crucifixion was rarely talked about. And when it was talked about, it was talked about in very vague terms.
- There's a message in crucifixion. There's something being stated when these ancient people used crucifixion as a punishment, as an execution.
- Why is he talking about even death on a cross? I want us to talk this morning just for a few minutes about what the cross was really about, particularly in the ancient world.

1 The Cross Was a Demonstration of Weakness

Philippians 2:5–8

- First of all, the cross was a demonstration of weakness. It was to put on display powerlessness, defeat.
- The pain is just a byproduct of something else, a few other things actually, that are much more important in the process of what was happening through crucifixion.
- Everything about it is to proclaim how weak and how defeated and how powerless you are in the moment.
- Taking up our cross and following Jesus means that sometimes we appear weak to those who were in the world. And at times it is that actually makes us strong.
- Even though he was in the form of God, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave.
- Paul is saying, here, look to Jesus. Look to one who is crucified as your leader. You see the irony here.

2 The Cross Was for Humiliation and Shame

Mark 10:45

- The cross was for the purpose of humiliation and shame.
- Honor was the currency of the ancient world. That's how everything operated.
- This death on the cross was shameful. Yeah, it's painful. But what's going to last a lot longer than that pain is the shame.
- That's why the Hebrew writer says in chapter 12, he endured the cross, despising the shame.
- The cross was the ultimate humiliation. All dignity was removed.
- He said, I didn't come to be served, but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many in Mark 10.

3 Jesus Alters the Meaning of the Cross Forever

Philippians 2:8–11; Acts 5:38–39

- God is love. He's willing to stoop to shameful death for our good. And so Jesus alters the meaning of the cross forever.
- But Jesus flips the script on this. Everything changes.
- The cross became a declaration of his power, his authority, his global reign over all humanity. Not his defeat, but his victory.
- He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.
- God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus, whom you crucified.
- The cross, which is a sign of powerlessness and humiliation. Jesus completely changes all of that, and now it is a sign of his victory and his glory.

THE CHALLENGE

We can have that same mentality, both in our loyalty to Jesus Christ and our harmony with one another to live a life that is in keeping with the message of the cross. Will you come this morning?

MY NOTES