

## Audio file

[1826gsm\\_john\\_19\\_v17.mp3](#)

## Transcript

00:00:04

I'm turning in the Scriptures to John chapter 19, the Gospel of John in chapter 19, and reading from verse 13.

00:00:17

The Gospel of John chapter 19 and verse 13.

00:00:22

And, of course, this is part of the record

00:00:29

of our Saviour's meeting with Pilate at the judgment seat.

00:00:35

But we're picking up the reading from verse 13.

00:00:39

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth and sat down in the judgment seat, in a place that is called the pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

00:00:54

And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour.

00:01:00

And he said unto the Jews, Behold your King.

00:01:06

But they cried out, Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him! Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King?

00:01:23

The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but Caesar.' Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified.

00:01:35

And they took Jesus and led him away.

00:01:38

And he, bearing his cross, went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha,

00:01:52

where they crucified him, and two other with him on either side, one and Jesus in the midst.

00:02:01

Jesus in the middle.

00:02:04

And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross, and the writing was Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

00:02:14

This title then read many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified

00:02:22

was nigh to the city, and it was written in Hebrew and Greek and Latin.

00:02:29

Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, 'Write not the King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.' Pilate answered, 'What I have written, I have written.'

00:02:50

And the Lord will bless his word to our hearts.

00:02:53

Now our text this evening is found in John chapter 19 and verse 17.

00:03:00

John chapter 19 and verse 17.

00:03:04

And he, bearing his cross, went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.

00:03:16

And really, the focus will be on those first

00:03:21

five words of this verse, And he bearing his cross.

00:03:33

Friends, when we think of the Gospels, we may think of the Gospels, the four Gospels, as biographies.

00:03:42

They are not biographies, because if they were, they'd want to be a lot longer

00:03:49

to record all the significant events in our Saviour's earthly life.

00:03:57

Though two of them refer to His ancestry, to His family tree, and two of them refer to some of His early years, in essence, these four gospels focus on three years of our Lord's earthly ministry, and particularly

00:04:19

the three years of his public ministry as the preacher and redeemer of his people.

00:04:28

Man says this, These gospels are to convey to mankind what God has done in Christ for the salvation of sinners.

00:04:42

They proclaim good news, and at the centre

00:04:48

is the cross.

00:04:51

At the centre of these Gospel messages, these Gospel accounts, is the saving message of redemption.

00:04:59

While they speak of the joy and the peace of Christ, the emphasis is on His suffering on Calvary.

00:05:12

And John records for us

00:05:14

in the last, from chapter 13 onwards, the last week, the last days of our Lord's ministry, and he focuses much of the last part of his gospel on the cross and the place called Golgotha.

00:05:36

We are too apt to hurry past

00:05:43

the most significant event in all of history.

00:05:47

We are so prone to undervalue this event at Calvary.

00:05:54

We don't grasp the supreme mystery of the ages.

00:05:59

We assume we know it all.

00:06:04

We don't know it all, and never will understand it all.

00:06:12

We need to take time.

00:06:15

We need to pause.

00:06:17

We need to do what the old writers would have done and stand in gaze and wonder at the events of Calvary.

00:06:29

We are about to enter onto holy ground.

00:06:33

We don't do it presumptuously.

00:06:36

We don't do it with arrogance.

00:06:39

We don't do it with pride.

00:06:42

We do it with humble, small steps.

00:06:45

And what we're going to look at tonight really is 3 main truths.

00:06:53

The first we're going to look at is the cross itself.

00:06:59

The cross itself.

00:07:04

Notice the words here, and he bearing his cross.

00:07:13

This, of course, was a wooden cross.

00:07:19

It was a typical mode of punishment of criminals, not invented by the Romans, but refined by the Romans.

00:07:33

They had learned from another civilization.

00:07:36

The cross is prophesied in Old Testament Scripture.

00:07:41

But what's the material?

00:07:42

Well, I mentioned it's a wooden cross, not a stone cross, not a metal cross, but a wooden one.

00:07:53

It is made from a tree.

00:07:56

The word crucifixion that you often hear in religious circles is taken from the Latin for crooks, which is cross.

00:08:05

The old Latin churches had a crooks-shaped structure or shape.

00:08:12

Perhaps you didn't realize that the local cathedral here is cruciform.

00:08:17

Alas, the preaching of the cross is absent from it.

00:08:23

Crucifixion was a form of torture and execution that involved in fixing a person to a wooden post or tree using ropes or nails used in the execution of our Lord Jesus Christ and the two other with him.

00:08:40

Think of it, the one who ordained the creation of trees and plants and flowers at the beginning of the world.

00:08:56

When he spoke forth and all manner of plant life burst forth

00:09:10

was now nailed to one of the trees He had ordained to be created.

00:09:18

The significance, secondly, of His cross, notice this, He bearing His cross.

00:09:33

It's His cross.

00:09:39

In the original language, it's a reflexive term.

00:09:44

It's the cross that he bore himself.

00:09:49

It's his own cross.

00:09:52

It's no one else's cross.

00:09:54

No other could bear this cross.

00:09:57

No other is qualified to bear this cross.

00:10:00

No other is appointed to bear this cross.

00:10:03

There's no one divinely anointed to bear this cross.

00:10:06

What mystery is found here?

00:10:10

It's His cross.

00:10:12

What divinity, what eternity is found in His cross?

00:10:17

The depth of this truth, the enormity of this phrase.

00:10:25

Did Christ bear this cross in vain?

00:10:34

What does this cross represent?

00:10:38

And for whom did he bear his cross?

00:10:44

Third, the cruelty of this cross.

00:10:48

What was it like to be crucified in ancient times?

00:10:54

Some of us grew up in a religion where the cross was central, but it was a crucifix where Jesus still hung.

00:11:06

But this cross was a wooden cross, and it's significant that it was wooden, because those that were crucified will be nailed to the cross.

00:11:22

And we have this image of a nail, something like some of our steel nails, long, thin steel nails.

00:11:29

No, no, no, these are cruel spikes that were driven into the hands, into the wrist, between the bones of the wrist and the feet.

00:11:43

These cruel spikes would then be

00:11:48

impale the person upon the cross, and then the beam will be raised up and the person will be suspended, racked with pain and agony, as you can read in Psalm 22 and verse 16.

00:12:05

Isaiah gives us a picture, not of the, sorry, he doesn't give us a description of crucifixion, he gives us a description of what Christ bore on the cross, the cruelty of it.

00:12:16

The word stripes, it's repeated again in 1 Peter 2:24.

00:12:21

It speaks of, By his stripes, we are healed.

00:12:28

The cross speaks of crucifixion, not just troubles, no death,

00:12:35

is like crucifixion.

00:12:39

There are many other references in the Bible to the suffering of Christ, but there are five main references that challenge us as Christians to bear up the cross.

00:12:52

Not Christ's cross, but the burdens that the Lord may have laid upon us.

00:13:00

And that's so important.

00:13:03

Because unless we grasp something of the reality of the cross, then we won't understand the rest of this message.

00:13:13

It really happened.

00:13:15

It really happened in time.

00:13:17

It wasn't a historical fantasy, or a fable, or a fairy tale.

00:13:23

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God who became man, was crucified on Calvary's cross.

00:13:31

But the second thing I want you to notice is the cross He bore.

00:13:36

I mentioned already it was His cross.

00:13:38

It was uniquely His cross.

00:13:41

There was no other that could bear this cross.

00:13:44

This cross would be carried by our Lord to Golgotha.

00:13:51

That was the plan of the Roman soldiers.

00:13:53

That's how they brought such shame and disgrace and exhaustion upon the victim.

00:14:03

But on his way, he was so exhausted that a man, Simon of Cyrene, was press-ganged into carrying our Lord's cross.

00:14:16

The fact that the soldiers expected him to bear his own cross shows that our Lord Jesus was crucified as a common criminal.

00:14:25

John doesn't mention Simon.

00:14:27

We find that in Matthew chapter 27, verse 32 and Mark 15, verse 21 and Luke chapter 23, verse 26.

00:14:37

But Simon only carried the cross for a short way.

00:14:44

He didn't carry the cross all the way to Golgotha.

00:14:48

Because by the time we get to Golgotha,

00:14:51

Our Lord Jesus is now carrying his own cross.

00:14:54

Notice verse 17, He bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.

00:15:03

So from Gabbatha, the place of judgment, to Golgotha, the place of crucifixion, Simon took the cross for a short part, and then it was re-transferred back for our Savior to carry this cross.

00:15:22

He bore this cross, as one man puts it, until he appears to have sunk under the weight, the physical weight of it.

00:15:31

And yet there's a greater weight to come.

00:15:40

The cross he bore.

00:15:44

In Isaiah, you have quite a few references to this reality, to bearing something,

00:15:53

What does it mean to bear something?

00:15:54

It means to carry it.

00:15:57

It speaks of a burden.

00:15:59

And in Isaiah chapter 53 and verse 4, Surely He hath borne our griefs.

00:16:10

He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

00:16:19

A little further on, we have this phrase.

00:16:24

that He bare the sins of many.

00:16:32

He bare the sins of many.

00:16:38

You find that in verse 12.

00:16:39

And if you look through the chapter, you'll see other references.

00:16:43

Some of our hymns speak of the burden our Lord carried or the bearing

00:16:51

We just sang a hymn, O cross that lifteth up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee, I lay in dust  
life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

00:17:02

That's the focus on the cross, but let me point you to one other that speaks of similar language,  
except it goes into a bit more detail.

00:17:11

And this was one we sang, The enormous load of human guilt was on my Savior laid, with woes  
as with a garmentee,

00:17:20

for sinners was a red.

00:17:24

You see, the old hymns carry this truth, this message in the words, Christ bore our sins.

00:17:34

Christ bore our iniquities.

00:17:37

He just didn't bear a cross.

00:17:39

He bore something of the cross.

00:17:43

And that's the last thing and the focus we want to look at tonight.

00:17:46

The first thing we looked at is the reality of the cross.

00:17:49

The second thing was that the cross He bore.

00:17:51

The third is the cross, its burden.

00:17:56

What was this burden like?

00:17:59

What great weight did the Lord Jesus Christ carry?

00:18:04

Well, it says that He bearing His cross

00:18:12

Think of the heaviest load you've ever carried.

00:18:15

Some of us men may have lifted weights in a previous

00:18:20

previous time.

00:18:22

Maybe we still do.

00:18:25

But I dare say none of us have ever lifted the weights of some of those men of a previous generation.

00:18:33

There was a man who performed a backlift of lifting 2,422.18 kilograms, or if you like the old money, 5,350 pounds

00:18:46

A man called Greg Ernest in 1993.

00:18:49

What did this enormous weight involve?

00:18:52

Well, it involved two cars with drivers on a platform in a standard competition.

00:19:00

Perhaps somebody else you've heard of is a guy called Julius Bjornsson in 2020.

00:19:09

And he lifted five from the heaviest deadlift

00:19:15

The first thing was a backlift, now it's a deadlift, so it's lifting straight up 501 kilograms, or 1,104 pounds.

00:19:26

That's an enormous weight.

00:19:28

None of us could ever imagine ever lifting that unless we did lots of years of training.

00:19:35

Think of the heaviest load a ship can carry.

00:19:39

We can think of lorries, we can think of trains.

00:19:42

But let's think about the largest super containers in the world.

00:19:46

There's three of them, all owned by the same company.

00:19:49

The first is called Michel, the second is called Mariella, and the other is called Mecol.

00:19:55

And their surname is Capellini.

00:19:57

Their maximum weight of these ships is 240,000 tons.

00:20:08

Now multiply all of that by infinity.

00:20:13

And we haven't even come close to the enormous weight of guilt, to the transgressions, to the iniquity, to the judgment, to the punishment, to the wrath that our Savior bore.

00:20:31

In fact, all that which is weighed in this frail, fickle world is nothing compared to the weight that our Lord bore.

00:20:43

Let me break it down.

00:20:45

The cross, first of all, was a cross of shame.

00:20:49

In Hebrews chapter 12, verse 2, the Apostle Paul writes this, Despising the shame of the cross.

00:21:00

Shame, disgrace.

00:21:03

Shame is missing in our generation.

00:21:06

It seems that you can sin with impunity, and until the authorities catch up with you or the media expose you, you seem to go on in life without any shame.

00:21:16

Nobody hides their faces in shame anymore when they do something wrong.

00:21:22

Ah, but our Lord's shame was an awful shame.

00:21:28

Here He is as the sinless, spotless Savior.

00:21:34

displayed for all to see.

00:21:39

And yet, if he hadn't to bear that shame, none of us could be redeemed.

00:21:48

His shame was actually the shame a sinner should bear for all eternity because of the guilt of our own sin.

00:21:57

Secondly, it's a cross of suffering.

00:22:00

Well, this is quite obvious, but I just wanted to point it out.

00:22:03

In 1 Peter, chapter 2, verse 24, Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.

00:22:17

Of course, he's quoting from Isaiah, chapter 53.

00:22:22

Peter had a deep understanding of Calvary.

00:22:27

He knew

00:22:28

Isaiah 53, like we wouldn't know it, most likely he was so familiar with it, and yet there, at the foot of Calvary, he beheld Christ.

00:22:42

He saw the suffering of his Savior.

00:22:47

He saw what sin cost his Redeemer.

00:22:54

It's a cross of suffering.

00:22:57

I often think that we should see the suffering of Christ like an iceberg.

00:23:06

We only see the outward.

00:23:09

We only see the top surface above the sea of God's wrath.

00:23:15

We don't see the depths.

00:23:18

We could never behold the depths of Christ's suffering.

00:23:22

We could never go to those darkest of darkest places.

00:23:27

We wouldn't actually manage.

00:23:28

We wouldn't exist.

00:23:29

We would be destroyed before we even got a little into this darkness.

00:23:36

I often think, too, God's divine hand was there at Calvary when He brought three hours of darkness upon the whole land.

00:23:51

Perhaps the darkness was a picture of the judgment for sin,

00:23:55

but perhaps also it was concealing from all around the depths of the suffering of our Saviour.

00:24:07

In Luke chapter 23 verse 44, It was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

00:24:17

It was a cross of shame, it was a cross of suffering.

00:24:20

Third, it was a cross of curse.

00:24:23

In Galatians 3 and verse 13,

00:24:26

The Apostle Paul says this, and it's quite instructive what he says.

00:24:34

Paul, of course, was a devout Jew who was wonderfully converted to Christ, and he writes this, Cursed, Christ had redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us, for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

00:24:56

Those who were crucified on a tree, they weren't accursed because they were on a tree.

00:25:03

They were on a tree because they were accursed.

00:25:09

Christ bore the curse of sin.

00:25:14

He pour our curse on the cross.

00:25:20

Here He is taking the curse that each one of us should bear for all eternity.

00:25:26

Here He is taking the suffering we should endure for all eternity.

00:25:31

Here He is bearing the shame that we should carry for all eternity.

00:25:38

But there's one other thing.

00:25:40

It's a cross of judgment.

00:25:44

In John chapter 12, verses 27 to 31, our Lord gives an insight into this.

00:25:50

God's -- in John's Gospel, judgment occurs when the Son of God determines to sacrifice himself.

00:26:00

He declares this to his disciples, but he had known it from all eternity.

00:26:06

Here is the Judge of all the earth being judged.

00:26:12

Pilate didn't realize that at Gabbatha that day,

00:26:18

He was being judged by the true judge.

00:26:24

Pilate thought that he had power to declare that this mere Jew, who was some kind of teacher and rabbi, he had the power to judge.

00:26:38

But he could never have had the power of judgment, my friend, unless God had given it to him.

00:26:47

What will be our judgment?

00:26:53

God's word tells us that, according to God's standards, we are all transgressors, as Isaiah speaks about.

00:27:03

He was wounded for our transgressions.

00:27:05

He was bruised for our iniquities.

00:27:08

The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

00:27:14

Judgment.

00:27:17

The cross of Calvary should have above it not just the charge against our Savior, but the word judgment.

00:27:27

Here, God is judging sin.

00:27:30

Here, God is judging his people's sin.

00:27:35

Here, God is dealing with the great darkness and devilishness of sin.

00:27:45

God is judging sin at Calvary.

00:27:49

Whose judgment?

00:27:52

Christ's judgment?

00:27:54

Oh, no.

00:27:57

Our judgment.

00:28:01

One old writer puts it like this, Our Lord Jesus bore damnation at Calvary, and ah, he bore it lovingly.

00:28:14

too quickly, we forget that all of humankind, all men, women, and children, and the whole of creation is under God's judgment.

00:28:32

All is stained, all is polluted, all is unclean, and yet God in His mercy

00:28:42

holds back his full judgment until the moment that his last chosen child is brought into his kingdom.

00:29:04

What judgment will be unleashed on this fallen world

00:29:09

when Christ returns in power and glory.

00:29:15

Mankind has no idea of the judgment to come.

00:29:22

Some have died unexpectedly.

00:29:27

They were in authority and power even this past week.

00:29:32

They thought to themselves and their own foolishness, No one can judge me.

00:29:39

Ah, they are no longer walking on this earth.

00:29:45

They have been brought before Almighty God in judgment.

00:29:59

Did Christ bear our judgment, our shame, our suffering, our curse on His cross?

00:30:14

Can you say with sincerity, He did it for me?

00:30:22

I should have been the one disgraced and ashamed and suffering and accursed of God and under His eternal judgment and facing divine judgment forever.

00:30:41

But Christ bore it for me.

00:30:46

The last thing, it was a cross of redemption.

00:30:50

Because on the cross, Christ paid something in full.

00:30:59

He paid the debt of sin that we owe God.

00:31:06

The Bible says we have redemption through his blood.

00:31:11

the forgiveness of sin.

00:31:16

We can look at the cross in a different way now.

00:31:23

He doesn't carry His cross anymore.

00:31:27

He doesn't need to.

00:31:29

When He was crucified, our dear Savior prayed, preached, and forgave sinners.

00:31:39

Only those who recognized who he truly was, even one of those who was crucified with him, he forgave, he pardoned.

00:31:48

And those who look to Calvary's cross, not as a religious symbol, they don't even look at the cross itself, but they look at the one on the cross and they say, Yes, that is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, and the appointed mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus.

00:32:11

He is the Redeemer of God's elect, and He is my Redeemer too.

00:32:21

If we don't trust in Christ, who bore His cross at Calvary for sinners such as we, then we will face an eternity in judgment and abandonment and the deepest, darkest

00:32:41

experience and existence imaginable.

00:32:45

That is the gospel.

00:32:47

That is the truth.

00:32:50

So on the cross, our Lord Jesus is recorded as suffering and bleeding and dying, and then crying out, It is

00:33:11

finished.

00:33:16

And he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

00:33:23

So next time you hear about the cross, next time you read about the cross, think again, think deeply that the cross is the only place where God's mercy

00:33:41

met the anger of God's wrath, and a penalty was paid, and pardon bought, and sinners lost at last to him were brought.

00:33:57

The cross he bore.

00:34:00

Did he bore it for me, dear friend?

00:34:03

Did he bear it for you?

00:34:05

Were your sins laid on him at Calvary?

00:34:09

Have you trusted in His finished work?

00:34:12

Have you realized that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, though He died and was taken from the cross and buried and rose again the third day, do you know He's still able to save sinners this very night?

00:34:30

Have you come to Him?

00:34:32

Have you trusted in Him?

00:34:35

Have you believed on Him?

00:34:37

Are you relying on Him?

00:34:40

Do you know what it is to have peace through the blood of His cross?

00:34:49

Our gracious God and loving Father, we're so thankful for this evening hour.

00:34:54

Bless these words to our souls.

00:34:57

Help us to see that we have redemption through Christ's blood.

00:35:05

He bore the cross for many of us here tonight, but may someone hear, Lord, they're not sure.

00:35:13

They're not certain.

00:35:15

They have heard these messages before, but tonight their heart has been quickened.

00:35:19

Their mind has been opened.

00:35:24

Their will has been softened.

00:35:28

And they now realize that, ah, yes.

00:35:33

Jesus Christ bore his cross for me.

00:35:38

Seal this service with thy presence.

00:35:42

Work in, dear souls, even this very moment.

00:35:46

Show someone, O Lord, who feels in their own selves that Christ could never bear their sins.

00:35:55

Show them, O Lord, that he has borne our sins.

00:36:00

and he is able to carry all of our sins.

00:36:04

He's able to forgive all of our sins because he's done it already at Calvary.

00:36:09

But alas, alas, some will hold back, perhaps waiting for another moment, perhaps waiting for another week or another month.

00:36:20

O Lord, may that not be so.

00:36:25

Bring someone, even into thy

00:36:29

kingdom this very night.

00:36:31

We ask in Jesus' name.

00:36:34

Amen.