

Grace notes

guides for personal Bible study

Confidence From the Creed: He Suffered

Matthew 27:11-31: “Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ ‘You have said so,’ Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, ‘Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: ‘Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.’ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’ asked the governor. ‘Barabbas,’ they answered. ‘What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ Pilate asked. They all answered, ‘Crucify him!’ ‘Why? What crime has he committed?’ asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify him!’ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood,’ he said. ‘It is your responsibility!’ All the people answered, ‘His blood is on us and on our children!’ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.”

Isaiah 53:10: “Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer.”

Points to Ponder

- I. What are some reasons why a statement of faith like the Apostles’ Creed can be helpful to us?

2. Read this section of Matthew and underline the many ways that Jesus suffered mockery, injustice, and cruelty.

3. According to Isaiah 53:10, whose will was it that Jesus had to suffer?

4. Read Matthew 27:24. Was Pilate innocent of Jesus' blood?

5. Are we innocent of Jesus' blood?

6. Why would God cause suffering to his own Son for us?

7. Why would Jesus endure it?

Hell is real. We are to take it seriously, yet we have the assurance that our salvation is not dependent on what we do but on what Jesus did. God's wrath was poured out on him; he suffered for us. Now we can say, "Lord, what gives me confidence and hope is that you came looking for me. You saved a wretch like me. You took a blind person like me and gave me eyes to see my Savior." And with that same confidence and hope, we can use our time right now to tell others about the only way to heaven.

What else does God say?

Matthew 25:46: They will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

John 3:36: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.