

Jesus: Tough and Tender (John 19:28-37)

Pastor Deric

(28) After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." (29) A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(31) Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. (32) So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. (33) But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

(34) But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

(35) He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth--that you also may believe. (36) For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." (37) And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Practical Application

1. Is it possible to be both tough and tender?
2. To thrive in this world you need both. This world needs men who are both. This world needs women who are both caring and strong.
3. Jesus embodied perfectly both toughness and tenderness. It is His toughness and tenderness that made a way for you to have life forever with God, and fullness of life now.
4. God is working all human history, and your life, toward the accomplishment of His great plans and purposes. You can trust Him fully.
5. Jesus knows, controls, and completes His mission, purpose, and specific life plan. He can lead you to do the same. Follow Him with all your heart.
6. Jesus did everything that needed to be done for your salvation/redemption/freedom to occur. You do not have to work for salvation/redemption/freedom. The work of salvation is finished! Just receive it if you have not already.
7. Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies of scripture found in the Old Testament. You can trust God's Word. Read it, study it, memorize it, meditate on it, apply it, teach it to others, love it, enjoy it, and cherish it.
8. Jesus thirsted so that you may drink freely from the water of life now & forever. Your soul can be satisfied in Jesus.
9. Ultimately, Jesus' life was not taken from Him, He gave it up. It was His choice, will, purpose, and plan to die. He has full and complete control over both life and death. In Christ, you do not have to fear your death either.
10. Don't become more focused on man made laws and formal religious practices than you are on the God who made you. Relationships are more important than regulations and rituals.
11. The brutality of man is a harsh reality, but the blessing of God is a greater reality that comes with eternal rewards.
12. Jesus was pierced for our sins and transgressions. His pain leads to our eternal pleasure.
13. Did Jesus die of a broken heart? Does sin break the heart of God? Does the rejection of people that God made to love and worship Him hurt Him to His core? Does God sorrow over the evil on humanity?
14. God hates sin, but He loves sinners. God loves you. Jesus loves you. Open your heart to Him today. God wants you. He wants your heart.
15. Have your sins been washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ? Are you a glad participant of the Lord's Supper (Communion)? Have you identified with Christ publicly through water baptism?

16. How often do you bear witness and testify to the truth of Jesus Christ, the truth of the gospel? Speak the truth in love! Pray for open doors to witness and testify each day.
17. Look to Jesus. Experience the saving results of His toughness and tenderness. Become more tough and tender yourself as you follow Him as His disciple.

Announcements

1. 5th Sunday Potluck Lunch today right after worship in the Fellowship Hall.
2. Next Sunday (August 6th) will be Promotion Sunday. Kids will be moving up to the next grade and in some cases, from Kids Ministry (see Tiffany Vick) to Youth Ministry (see David Barrero).
3. Next Sunday evening (August 6th) at 5:00 is our back to school bash! We will have water games so wear your swim suit! Bring a towel and parents bring a chair. We will be serving dinner!
4. AWANA begins on Wednesday, August 23! We still need a few more AWANA volunteers for this year. Remember we will be serving dinner to kids on Wednesday nights.