

Jesus '24

Michael Koulianos + Jesus Image

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Dream about being his bride. As sister said, "I'm not a theologian, but I am his bride." As I, by his mercy, continue to walk with him, and read his Holy Word, I began to discover that He is the suffering God. Would you close your eyes for a moment? This Jesus This, Jesus nearing the end of his life spreads the table and as the Passover Lamb Himself, celebrates Passover. In His most painful moment that's approaching, He longs to sit with his own and commune with them, Even with his betrayer at the table, Jesus still chooses to love his own, and He washes the feet of that betrayer knowing that in just a few moments that betrayer with those freshly washed feet will use those feet to betray the Lord. In just a moment we're going to receive the body and blood of Jesus and I believe it's going to heal many of you. But he takes the bread and the wine - He says, "Take, eat, this is my body that is broken for you." He takes the wine and says, "Take and drink. This is my blood that is shed for you for the remission of sin." He says, "Do this often in remembrance of me." And then he says, "Every time we do it, we declare the Lord's death until he returns."

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Eventually he leaves the upper room and walks through the Kidron Valley. Just close your eyes right there and wait on the Lord as I speak to you. He walks through the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane. It was the place of retreat for Him, and he went to pray after singing the Hallel Psalms. Imagine singing songs that speak of your own death. Psalm 116, for instance. The scripture teaches that they sang Psalms, they would have been the Hallel Psalms. Imagine being so yielded that you can worship your Father with a song that declares your own death. And He gets to this garden, begins to pray, and He says, "Father, if it's possible, can you choose another way, can you take this cup? Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." And He begins to sweat drops of blood. His father sends an angel to strengthen Him. [He] casts himself upon the ground as the yielded Son and Judas whose name means praise (don't think for a moment that just because you praise you can't betray the Lord) his name means praise and he shows up and greets the Lord with a kiss as he betrays Him. Friends, intimacy talk without an intimate life is betrayal. You can kiss Him and betray Him. And as sister said today they bound Him. And here the Lord offers His hands, the hands that framed the world, the hands that hung the stars in the sky, hung the moon, the Sun, the hands that formed Adam and Eve, not spoke them into existence, but loved them enough to form them into his own image, the very icon of God, the image of God, Jesus. With those same hands he took Adam close and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, those same precious hands that healed the sick in Galilee, the same precious hands that fed the hungry, the same hands that delivered Mary Magdalene, the same hands that smeared mud on eyes and opened them. Now they're bound by his own creation. As sister said, he could have stopped it at any minute. But remember friends, this King comes to die. The serpent's head must be crushed by a bruising, and so He offers those hands, bound by His own creation, led down the valley that he created, God imprisoned by His own, willingly. And they led him that night to an illegal trial, trials at night were illegal, and they gathered, and they mocked him, they slapped Him, they blindfolded Him, they commanded that He answer their questions. "Tell us, are you the Son of the Highest?" Jesus sat there quietly, having his beard plucked out from His face. The Scripture says, "I gave my beard to those who plucked it." The Scripture says He set his chin, his face as flint. The Scripture says in Psalm 88, "My eyes waste away due to affliction because of beating and tears." The Sanhedrin (the elders, the Pharisees) beat Him brutally. After all, the Law said that the priest had to lay his hands on the sacrifice and transfer the sin of the nation and that the sacrifice had to be led outside the city and while those priests were slapping Jesus little did they know that He would carry their sin upon His own body and a transfer would take place - the very Lamb of

God. And that night after this illegal trial eventually Jesus answers to honor the authority of the high priest. He said, "I adore you by the living God, tell us are you the Son of the Highest. Are you the son of David, the Messiah?" He said, "You are right and one day you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the power coming in the Clouds Of Heaven." And they tore their clothes and said, "Blasphemy." That night they would lower him into a dungeon, beneath Caiaphas home. I've been in that dungeon. In that dungeon Psalm 88 sits on a pulpit and it's open to this verse: "Darkness was my only friend." Here the Son of Man is thrown into a dungeon - God himself - thrown and lowered in by ropes, most likely under his precious arms, dropped into a dungeon, spent the night alone. But He really wasn't alone, His Father there're with Him. After that, He's paraded to Pilate. Pilate says. "Send him to Herod." Herod says, 'Perform for me, it's what the church does today, work a miracle... Send me some money, make me famous, bless my business.' If you're God, prove it. Prove that you're God. That's the heart of Herod. Herod couldn't wait to see Him so He could be entertained. Oh why is the meeting so dead? That worship team's off today - it's the spirit of Herod. Jesus doesn't perform for Herod. He silently stands in front of him because He has nothing to prove. Herod sends him back to Pilate. Pilate says, "Don't you know I could kill you?" Jesus says, "You'd have no authority if it weren't given to you from above." Pilate finds no fault in Him. But the religious, you see, those who knew scripture without seeing Jesus use the scriptures to kill Him. Blasphemy, they said. They demanded that Pilate kill Him. Prior to that Pilate says, "No, no I will have him flogged." And so here Jesus, His beard has been plucked, His eyes are wasting away, His face is swollen. He's bruised and blooded, and they strip Him and tie Him to a pole, chain Him to a pole. There was no need to chain Him, He would have held on. After all He's crucified before the foundations of the world, the one who comes to lay His life down. No need to chain Him to that pole. He said to the Israelites, "I am the Lord who heals you." Nonetheless, he receives the shame of being bound to this pole and He's stripped down and God offers his back to the smiters. Isaiah writes, "They plowed my back like long furrows, like plowing the land." They plowed his back, His Holy Blood, His perfect Blood, His healing Blood. His saving Blood. His Blood that speaks a better word than that of Abel is pouring out of His body as they lashed Him with the cat of nine tails. His bones are showing, some of His organs exposed, He's offering His very back so that we would be healed tonight. His mother is watching, John is watching the other Mary's watching as the Holy One of Israel is being skinned by the cat of nine tales. They took a crown of thorns. Friends, this is the one who wore Heaven's diadem, the one who's stripped naked is the one whose robe filled the temple with glory, and they took this crown of thorns, you see they had to, He had to redeem the curse so that you could have the mind of Christ tonight. After all, don't don't you remember that the fire in Exodus is in the midst of a bush and the bush isn't consumed? Stephen says in Acts 7 that that's a thorn bush don't you see the picture? Now the one who is an all consuming fire is wearing thorns. Why is he wearing Thorns? Because this is a different Kingdom. This is a Holy Kingdom. This is the kingdom of humility. This is the kingdom of offering self. This is the kingdom of bleeding. This is the kingdom of sacrifice. This is the kingdom of foot washing. This is the kingdom of carrying our cross. And as though it were not enough to place the crown, they beat the thorns in with a reed.

Mark 15:17-19 - And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. (ESV)

The one who held Heaven's septer has thorns implanted piercing his skull and His precious face, the face that 2 Corinthians 4 says is the very glory of God whose face shines upon us, whose face shines brighter than the Sun. They beat that Crown into His beautiful face and they spit on Him. The Bible says an entire garrison spit on Him. A Garrison, dozens of soldiers spitting on this Holy God, and in that moment, friends please listen, in that moment upon that Holy face, that beautiful face, that face that looks at you tonight and loves you. In that moment, the worst man could offer and the best God could offer collided on the face of Jesus. What do you mean, Michael? The spittle of the Gentiles collided with the blood of the Passover Lamb. All upon the face of Jesus and I'm here to tell you tonight by the authority of the Holy Word of God that God won, that the Blood prevails and the Blood speaks today. The worst man can offer bows its knee to the Holy Blood of Jesus Christ. And this Jesus is led to Pilate, flogged, skinned, standing before the Elders of Israel and Pilate says something, having no idea what he's saying. He says this, as they look on this beaten bruised bloodied, mocked abused, God man, Pilate makes a declaration, "Behold, the man."

Here, Jesus suffering and dying and bleeding shows us what it is to be a man, shows us what it is to be fully alive.” It is to be mocked, it is to bleed out, it is to lay your life down. It is to trade what is glorious for the honor of your Father. And sympathy was not flowing from His own as the Scripture says in John 1. He came to his own Israel and his own did not receive Him, but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. And there Jesus is standing before His own. They were not filled with compassion, they said, ”Crucify Him! More, more pain. Crucify Him! Crucify the Passover Lamb.” Even though He broke us out of Egypt’s bondage. Even though it was His Holy idea to mark our homes with blood so the death angel would pass over. Kill Him, kill the Lord. And Jesus took this cross like all of us must.

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He began to carry His cross on those precious shoulders with no skin up a mountain to His own death. What could be worse than to carry the device that it’s going to kill you? So weak was He that He couldn’t go on, and Simon of Sirene comes to help Him. Listen friends, and as Simon identifies with the cross, Simon is now smeared with the Holy Blood of Jesus. Let the world mock you, you’ll be covered in the Blood, should you take up your cross. And Jesus carries that cross up a mountain to the skull, the skull is the symbol of death. Remember it’s by death that he will conquer death. It’s through his bruising that He’ll crush the head of the serpent. Death will be destroyed by the man with a capital M (Messiah) who’s laying his life down, and they nail him to that cross. Adam failed by eating fruit from a living tree and sin came. Life will now come through the first fruits from the dead (Jesus) who hangs on a dead tree. And Jesus breathes his last and says, ”Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit.” Remember, He said, ”No man takes my life, I lay it down.” And in that moment friends, in that moment, in that moment the cosmos had never seen a man lay his own life down who was perfect. The devil had never seen a man breathe His last in perfection. And on that cross it said, ”Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” Why does it say that? Why was it left on the cross? Because in this Kingdom, as many great people have said, Kings carry crosses. In that moment, the Earth shook, the sky grew black because man would not mourn Him so the Rocks exploded. After all didn’t Jesus say if they don’t praise me the rocks will cry out?

Luke 19:37-40 - As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest! And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, Teacher, rebuke your disciples. He answered, I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out. (ESV)

But they did, and the ground shook and the Holy Blood of Jesus flowed down that cross and they took Him and ran a spear through His side as the last Adam. From this Adam’s side a bride would come just like the first Adam, and the lovers of Jesus after Jesus died would take him down from that cross and prepare His body as sister taught us today, and they would dress His body and wash His body, pour allows and mirrh upon his body. They brought myrrh to Him at his birth prophesying one day He will die. They took that precious body and laid it in a rich man’s tomb. Here, Jesus our Sabbath is lying resting from all of his works. And he descends into the underworld and plunders death, hell and the grave, and takes captivity captive and 3 days later the ground breaks open and the Saints come up with Him, and the King of Glory emerges. Death could not hold Him, the ground could not hold Him. As the scripture says, ”You will not allow your Holy One to see corruption.” You’ll not allow the Holy One to see corruption. You see it’s only for sinners who return to dust, but as Isaiah wrote, He’s not wounded for His transgressions, He’s wounded for our transgressions. No friends, don’t mistake this death, He didn’t die because of His sin. He died because of our sin. And this Holy One broke forth on the third day. I said He broke forth on the third day. Don’t you remember the creation account where the Scripture says that it’s on the third day that the seed broke the ground and began to appear. It’s all about Jesus, friends, all of it. 40 Days Later he ascends to the highest height. Today He seated at the right hand of the Father, yearning to come back and take us home where we see Him and shall be like Him and to feed us of Himself as the Heavenly servant at the table of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

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I’d like all of you to stand please. Without anyone moving. Please close your eyes. There are no altar calls

in the Bible. I doesn't matter if you've been to one. What matters is are you married and in love with the one I just spoke about? Have you ever heard the Gospel, or did you just get to know Him because he has a great plan for your life, you figured you'd follow Him occasionally? Do not risk your eternity. This event does not guarantee your eternity. Only a life found in Jesus offers us eternal security. If you feel the pull of the Holy Spirit, if you're living a life that is in and out, if you're living a life of sin, you don't have to, that's a lie. Of course you'll sin occasionally but it shouldn't be your lifestyle. It's a lie. The blood of Jesus is stronger than any demonic force over your life, any habit. Jesus said he who sins is a slave to sin. He said whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

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Sister's right, it's time to repent. It's time to turn. Don't just turn away from your sin tonight, turn away from your sin to the Lord Jesus. I want us all to pray out loud. I know we've gone a little extra tonight, but it's the last night and Jesus is happy right now. He feels loved. That's wonderful, that's wonderful. What can we offer Him but our love? Can we all pray this out loud, "Heavenly Father, wash me in your blood, cleanse my soul, forgive my sin, You Are Holy and I have grieved you. I have broken your heart and I'm sorry Lord. I really am sorry. Wash me tonight with the blood of Jesus. You said, though my sins be of scarlet they shall be white as snow. Tonight I confess my sin and you promised that if I would confess my sin, You are faithful and just to forgive my sin and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Tonight I turn from this world, I renounce the devil, I renounce my own will and I give myself to you as you have fully given yourself to me. Make me your bride I declare and I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, born of the Virgin, lived a perfect and Holy life, suffered upon the cross, shed his Precious Blood, died and was buried, and raised again. You are the son of the Living God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and tonight I give my life to you. Find me ready Lord when you return. In Jesus' precious name, AMEN!!