

## John 19:16-30

### Outline for Congregation

April 10, 2010

The intensity of the events recorded in this part of the Gospel of John expose what is going on in three communities: the religious leaders, the Romans, and Jesus' followers.

#### Anger (vv19-21) – the religious leaders

- v21 “Do not write... but rather “This man *said*, I am the King of the Jews’.”
- Jesus openly and plainly spoke the truth to them (John 18:19-23) but they hated him and unjustly handed him over the Romans urging they crucify him (John 18:29-32)
- Jesus taught that if they knew God they would love him (John 8:42-43) – but Jesus didn't fit their expectations and this angered them
- Anger and frustration often results when we have expectations and understandings that don't accord with how things really are

#### Indifference (vv22-24) – the Romans

- Pilate posts a charge on the cross in 3 languages (vv19-20) “King of the Jews”
- v22 – Pilate appears to be making a point to the religious leaders as well as to onlookers
- vv23-24 – as Jesus hangs on the cross the soldiers are concerned with who gets his clothes
- there is apathy towards Jesus – but the Romans had to deal with him if he would get in the way of their goals of political peace and stability

#### Love (vv25-27) – Jesus' followers

- The contrast to the 4 soldiers and Pilate are 4 women and the “disciple whom he loved”
- The words Jesus speaks to them are about family, protection, care, love (vv26-27)
- Jesus “thirsts” (v28) and dies after drinking the bitter wine
- His last words are “it is finished” (v30) – what is finished?
- The religious leaders and Romans worked together to crucify Jesus, but hated each other. This contrasts those gathered under Jesus to care for one another in love

Questions for reflection:

1. Read John's Gospel (try doing it one sitting!). Is there anything you read about that angers you? If so, what, and why? Do you recognize important things that you simply don't care about?
2. What emotion defines how you most typically feel and behave: love, apathy or anger? How can you increase your love, rid yourself of ungodly anger, or get past your indifference? What role does the grace of God play in this?
3. It can be hard to love Jesus – we don't see him as we see others, we don't relate to him as we are used to relating to people. How can you grow in love for Jesus?
4. Jesus' final cry was "it is finished." What remains in your life that you eagerly await its being done with? How does Jesus' dying on the cross point you to a place where you can have hope to endure while you wait?