



John 18:1-11 (NIV)

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: *"I have not lost one of those you gave me."*

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them. To make them a ruin and an object of horror and scorn, a curse" Jeremiah 25:15-18

O what wondrous love is this. That my savior died for me.



SERMON NOTES

QUESTIONS OF EASTER

Do you know who **JESUS** really is?

"I and the Father are one." John 10:30

Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" John 14:9

There is nothing mediocre about Jesus.

Do you know who **YOU** really are?

The *Mysterium Tremendum* ("mystery that repels"), in which the dreadful, fearful, and overwhelming power of God is revealed

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts." Isaiah 6:5

Do you know the **CUP OF GOD'S WRATH**?

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God does not love us 'if' or 'because'

Are you **THANKFUL**?

It is not happy people who are thankful.

It is thankful people who are happy.

Michka: That's a great idea, no denying it. Such great hope is wonderful, even though it's close to lunacy, in my view. Christ has his rank among the world's great thinkers. But Son of God, isn't that farfetched?

Bono: No, it's not farfetched to me. the secular response to the Christ story always goes like this: he was a great prophet, , had a lot to say along the lines of other great prophets, be they Elijah, Muhammad, Buddha, or Confucius. But actually Christ doesn't allow you that. He doesn't let you off that hook. Christ says: *No. I'm not saying I'm a teacher, don't call me teacher. I'm not saying I'm a prophet. I'm saying: "I'm the Messiah." I'm saying: "I am God incarnate."* And people say: *No, no, please, just be a prophet. A prophet, we can take. You're a bit eccentric. We've had John the Baptist eating locusts and wild honey, we can handle that. But don't mention the "M" word! Because, you know, we're gonna have to crucify you.*

And he goes: *No, no. I know you're expecting me to come back with an army, and set you free from these creeps, but actually I am the Messiah.* At this point, everyone starts staring at their shoes, and says: *Oh, my God, he's gonna keep saying this.* **So** what you're left with is: either Christ was who He said He was the Messiah or a complete nutcase. I mean, we're talking nutcase on the level of Charles Manson. This man was like some of the people

we've been talking about earlier. This man was strapping himself to a bomb, and had "King of the Jews" on his head, and, as they were putting him up on the Cross, was going: *OK, martyrdom, here we go. Bring on the pain! I can take it. I'm not joking here.* The idea that the entire course of civilization for over half of the globe could have its fate changed and turned upside-down by a nutcase, for me, that's farfetched

If only we could be a bit more like Him, the world would be transformed. When I look at the Cross of Christ, what I see up there is all my s— and everybody else's. So I ask myself a question a lot of people have asked: Who is this man? And was He who He said He was, or was He just a religious nut? And there it is, and that's the question. And no one can talk you into it or out of it.

Read more:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/frankviola/bono-on-jesus/#ixzz3WAJReoy9>

SACRED JOURNEY

WHAT DID JESUS SUFFER? AND WHY?

Who has believed our message? To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm? My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. READ: Isaiah 53:1-12 NLT

And why?

- Yet it was **our weaknesses** he carried
- It was **our sorrows** that weighed him down
- Pierced for **our rebellion**
- Crushed for **our sins?**
- Beaten **so we could be whole?**
- Whipped **so we could be healed**
- All of us, like sheep, have strayed away
- The Lord laid on him **the sins of us all??**

You can debate the meaning of the cross and the nature of the One who gave His life on it. What you can't do is get around this one, undeniable, life-changing fact. Jesus really, really loves you! He proved it.

Now, it's up to you. Do you own your weaknesses and sorrows, confess your rebellion and sins, and trust him to forgive you, make you whole, and forgive all of your sins? Or do you continue on your way as though you're okay, as though his death means nothing, and as though eternity doesn't hang in the balance.