

### **It Is Finished!**

**Read John 19** through the “lens” of John 12:27-28a.

**Drawing Near:** *Dear Father, I weep as I read about the cruelty inflicted upon Your One and Only Son. There is no greater wonder than Your extraordinary saving grace!*

1. **Review John 18.** Thursday night after eating the Passover meal with His disciples Jesus was arrested, bound and led into Jerusalem.
  - a. Contrast what Jesus allowed that night to the other times He had encountered strong opposition from the Jewish leadership (John 7:30; 8:59; 10:39 and 12:36).
  
  - b. As you read Exodus 12:1-13, think about the meaning behind the Passover meal that the Jews had been celebrating since the days of their exodus out of Egypt. Why do you suppose Jesus allowed Himself to be delivered over into the hands of the Jewish officials at this particular time? Also see John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7b.
  
  - c. Compare the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7-8a with Jesus' *triumphant procession towards the goal of the Cross*. (William Barclay)

The Jewish officials, so adamant that their laws be upheld, remained unmoved by their own hatred as they broke one law after another in their plot to have Jesus killed. Some scholars suggest that as many as forty-three violations were committed: e.g., a prisoner was not to be bound before he was condemned unless he resisted arrest; trials were not to be conducted at night; witnesses were to be called to speak in defense of the accused; the testimonies of two or more witnesses were necessary before a guilty verdict could be rendered.

#### **Pilate's Reluctance: Re-read John 19:1-16a.**

Pilate was under Caesar's orders to keep things peaceful in that unruly part of Rome's occupied territories. Any insurrection might have cost him his job or even his life. Hoping to appease and thus quiet the Jews (Luke 23:16) Pilate had Jesus flogged with whips made of leather strips into which pieces of bone and lead were embedded. Victims often did not survive these lashings.

2. How do you envision Jesus' appearance as Pilate brought Him out to the Jews (verses 1-5)? Also consider the prophecies written about Him in Isaiah 50:5-7 and 52:13-14.
  
3. Jesus' sufferings at the hands of the soldiers did not satisfy the Jewish leaders and bring about His release. What more did they demand of Pilate (John 19:6)?

**To think about:** Jesus' sufferings at this point had not yet satisfied the plan of a just God! What more did God require? (We will come back to this question later in the lesson.)

4. The Jews resented the Roman army and Pilate, their pagan governor. Pilate in turn had contempt for the nation at large. Both parties maneuvered around each other throughout Jesus' trial and crucifixion.
  - a. In what ways do you see Pilate mocking the Jews during Jesus' trial?
  
  - b. What were Pilate's repeated statements about Jesus (John 18:31, 38 and 19:4, 6, 12a)?
  
  - c. How did the Jews finally pressure Pilate into cooperating with their plot to kill Jesus (verses 12-16a)?
  
  - d. Who ultimately was in control (the judge, the authority) over Jesus' fate (verse 11)? Explain.
  
5. Jesus' trial ended with not only a legal decision (crucifixion) but spiritual ones as well.
  - a. What do you think was Pilate's spiritual decision about Jesus? Note: Jesus had previously spoken truth to him about His kingdom and ministry (John 18:36-37).

- b. When Israel's first king, Saul, was confirmed the prophet Samuel warned the people to remember that God was their King and to always serve and obey Him (1 Samuel 12:12). Comment on the Jews' final declaration in John 19:15.
  
- c. Ultimately it wasn't Jesus who was on trial during these court proceedings. How was it that Pilate and the Jews judged themselves? See John 3:17-18.

**To think about:** Each of us comes to the same point in which we make our own decision concerning Jesus. There is no neutral stance!

**Jesus' Crucifixion and Death: Read again John 19:16b-37.**

Crucifixion was the most cruel, shameful means of execution. Victims were stripped then hung from stakes next to the main road into the city. During this Passover, as thousands of pilgrims entered Jerusalem, they saw Jesus hanging from His cross and read in their own language the sign above His head, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

6. What did John want his readers to understand about all that took place that Friday (verses 24, 28, 36 and 37)?

**One Man, Jesus,** was the fulfillment of all Old Testament Messianic prophecies (e.g., those we have already seen in Isaiah).

7. What do you find in Psalm 22:1-21 that foretold of Jesus' crucifixion and death as described in John 19:16b-30? Note: David penned this psalm one thousand years before Jesus was born!

**One Man, Jesus,** was the fulfillment of Old Testament worship practices. God's prescribed requirement for the atonement of sins involved the killing and then sprinkling of animals' blood around the altar teaching that forgiveness required the substitution of life for life (Leviticus 17:11). The worshiper would confess his sins, then slit the throat of a lamb. This was a vivid object lesson--his sin was the cause and forgiveness the effect of the lamb's death. Forgiveness was costly! These sacrifices pointed forward to the One who would be the ultimate sacrifice.

8. What more do we learn about sin and forgiveness from the following two Scriptures?  
2 Corinthians 5:21:

Hebrews 10:1-10:

9. How does John 19:25-27 highlight the graciousness of Jesus?

10. Meditate on verse 30.

- a. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “It is finished?” See Matthew 27:50 for an understanding of the way in which He spoke these words.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Verse 30c literally reads, “He handed over” His spirit. Contrast and compare the events in John 18:30 and 19:16 with what happened as Jesus died. Also consider John 10:18.

As the Lamb of God hung lifeless on the cross the unjust Jews concerned themselves with ritual “purity” (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). Breaking the victim’s legs sped up death so the body could be removed and buried before nightfall (verses 31-37).

11. What did the witness see and give testimony of that day?

12. John not only saw significance in the flow of physical blood and water from Jesus’ side but possibly a symbolic significance as well.

- a. Read the following Scriptures and then restate what John had already told us about:  
Blood--John 6:53-56

Water--John 4:10-14

- b. What then do you think John is reminding us of in the flow of blood and water?

**Jesus' Burial: Read John 19:38-42.**

The amount of spices brought by Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) was an excessive amount usually used in the burial of the wealthy and prominent. **Read** more about Joseph of Arimathea in Matthew 27:57, Mark 15:43 and Luke 23:50-51.

13. Nicodemus and Joseph might have been among those John spoke of in John 12:42-43. How might the actions of these men encourage others who are followers of Jesus?

**Final Reflections:**

14. Jesus' blood was enough for the forgiveness of the self-righteous anger of the Jews,  
the cruel abuse and mocking insults of the soldiers,  
the selfish ambition of Pilate as he tried to save himself,  
the silence of those who could have come to Jesus' defense but did nothing,  
your sins and mine!

**Rephrase** Isaiah 53:4-6 in a way that puts you personally in the passage:

15. Jesus' crucifixion and death came from the heart of God (John 3:16)! As best you can, recount what this chapter brings to light of the majesty of your glorious God and Savior.

*To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy--to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.  
(Jude 24-25)*