



The Dynamic Gospel Study Guide – Book of John

Chapter 19

1 So Pilate did what he could to placate the mob. He had Jesus dragged to the torture block and flailed.

2 The palace guard curled a thorn vine into a wreath large enough to fit on Jesus' head, jamming it down till it was secure on His scalp. They took one of the spare presentation robes of royal purple and wrapped it around His shredded shoulders.

3 Round the circle they spun Jesus mocking Him with His new title 'King of the Jews.' With each spin another blow to the face.

4 Pilate went again to the gate with the battered Jesus and bellowed at the mob, saying "There – you've got what you wanted. Again I say I find no reason to condemn Him to death."

5 To the front was Jesus dragged, still wearing the crown of thorns and bloody royal robe. "Take a good look!" Shouted Pilate.

6 It wasn't enough for the priests and politicians. Blinded by their bloodlust they screamed "Drive Him full of nails! Crucify Him NOW!" They incited the whole crowd with their death cries. Pilate was disgusted. "Do it yourselves! I want no part of it."

7 Now the Jewish lawyers stepped in. "According to our own law He's already condemned for blaspheming. He makes Himself out to be God's Son. And by Roman law, we are forbidden. Or have you forgotten that?"

8 Pilate needed to find a different way and he was running out of options. The mob was becoming unmanageable.

9 He returned to the courtroom with Jesus demanding something – anything – of the man that might spare Him. "What planet do you come from? Are you insane? They want you dead. Right Now. Give me something." Jesus replied not a word.

10 Pilate wasn't done. "You have no right to remain silent here. Are You aware that on my word You can be crucified without any cause whatsoever? And on my word You can walk right out of here? What's it going to be?"

11 Jesus finally broke His silence. "There is nothing you can do to Me unless Heaven permits it. Console yourself that this mob has the greater sin for having delivered Me up. They are the false accusers. You are merely the hammer."

12 Pilate knew that an innocent man was about to be murdered and tried everything he could to prevent it. Yet the mob cried all the louder from the gates demanding an execution. They started accusing Pilate of being a traitor to Rome if he didn't appease them. "Anyone who makes Himself out to be a king defies Caesar. You want to defend that?"

13 Pilate had had enough. He knew there was nothing more he could do. He had his judgment seat brought to the large courtyard called 'the Pavement' (or in Hebrew 'Gabbatha.') He sat down in front of the ever-growing crowd.

14 The Passover preparation was well under way and the sun was high by then. Jesus was paraded in front of the mob while Pilate addressed them, saying "Here is your King!"

15 "No way," they shouted back. "Kill Him! Kill Him!!" "You want me to kill your king?" Pilate replied. The religious leaders turned an important corner when they proclaimed the following: "We have no king unless it's Caesar!"

16 Pilate folded. He handed Jesus over to the official executioners who dragged Him off to be impaled on a cross.

17 And bearing the crosspiece on His own back, Jesus trudged along to the hill called 'Skull' (or in Hebrew 'Golgotha.')

18 They wasted no time as they were already late for two other executions. Jesus was secured with nails and propped up directly between the other convicts.

19 Pilate had a plaque nailed to His cross, stating "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

20 The crowd had no trouble reading the sign. It was visible to everyone gathered all the way back to the city center, emblazoned in all the official languages; Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

21 Never satisfied, Pilate's act infuriated the Jewish politicians and Temple priests. "You can't say He was the 'King of the Jews!'" They cried. "Write instead 'He claimed to be King of the Jews.'"

22 Pilate shot back a terse reply: "Live with it."

23 Then the soldiers left to watch the carnage salvaged all of the condemned's clothing, ripping it up into souvenirs. That fancy coat was too valuable to destroy, however, finely woven in one piece as it was.

24 "We can't rip up such a nice piece of clothing," they agreed. So they gambled for it. The scene fulfilled exactly the old scripture that says "They've torn apart My clothing and parceled it out among themselves, but for My coat they cast lots." So prophesied; so done.

25 Amidst the whole spectacle was Jesus' mother Mary, along with her sister. Standing front and center and comforting them were others, including two other women also named Mary; the one married to Cleophas and the one called Mary Magdalene (or Mary the 'strong one.')

Together they saw every last wrenching moment.

26 When Jesus became aware of His mother below and that favorite student of His at her elbow, He called out to her. "Mama! Your son is holding you up!"

27 And to that disciple Jesus called out "Look at her – she's your mother now. Take care of her!" It was never a question. From that moment on Mary was adopted into that student's household.

28 As Jesus perceived the triumph at hand - that everything the scriptures spoke of was being fulfilled to perfection - He called for the cup saying, "I'm thirsty."

29 A bucket of spoiled wine sat nearby. The guards soaked a sponge with it and wrapped it around the hyssop gnawing stick. They climbed up to Jesus and held it for Him to chew.

30 After ingesting the sour symbol of sin, Jesus said "It's done." His neck convulsed and His head flopped over as His spirit left His body.

31 The religious leaders were eager to get back to their Passover preparations and time was short. Their law specifically stated that no dead body should remain unburied on a Sabbath - especially this Sabbath - so they urged Pilate to have the condemned's legs broken to speed things up a bit. And could he please expedite their disposal, if it wasn't too much trouble.

32 The soldiers got the order and stepped up to shatter the men's shin bones. This they did to both the men at Jesus' side.

33 But when they inspected Jesus, it was obvious He was already dead, so they didn't crush His legs.

34 One of the soldiers decided to make sure and he jammed his spear between the ribs of Jesus. Blood and water gushed out.

35 The one writing this saw it all and attests to every last detail. It is a reliable account.

36 It was obvious that all these particulars happened to fulfill specific prophecies including that “not one of His bones will be broken.”

37 And another, saying, “they will gaze upon the One they have stabbed.”

38 Later, Joseph from Arimathea, having been a discrete follower of Jesus and fearful of the Temple authorities, privately asked Pilate if he might be permitted to give Jesus a proper burial. This request Pilate granted, releasing the body to his custody.

39 Nicodemus, the one who had earlier pursued Jesus under cover of night, also came with an abundant supply of funeral supplies including over a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes.

40 Together these men respectfully bound up the body and spices in the traditional burial linens.

41 Not far away from the crucifixion site was a garden with a new burial crypt, never used.

42 Little daylight remained and the men hurried there to assure that Jesus was entombed before sundown as the law required.

Explain the Context:

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

What is the theme of this chapter?	What is the BIG Idea?
What is something that surprised you?	What is this chapter <i>not</i> saying?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) What are your thoughts about Pilate's actions throughout this chapter? Are there any feelings that come to the surface (empathy, sympathy, apathy)?
- 2) We often judge others by what we know of where they come from. How does this possibility cloud what you might think of Pilate?
- 3) Read Chapter 19 with a fresh lens. Don't let your knowledge of the outcome determine your response. Now – how do you view these events?
- 4) Jesus tells Pilate, *"There is nothing you can do to Me unless Heaven permits it. Console yourself that this mob has the greater sin for having delivered Me up. They are the false accusers. You are merely the hammer."* Can you see any way these words could encourage Pilate? Why or why not?

- 5) Read Leviticus 24:16. According to Jewish law, how should Jesus have been put to death?

- 6) Why do you think Pilate was adamant about the way he wrote the sign above Jesus on the cross?

- 7) Why do you think Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John rather than his own brothers?

- 8) What was the significance of Jesus announcing His thirst?

- 9) The religious leaders insisted that the “criminals” be taken down from their crosses before Sabbath began AND so they could get back to preparations for the Passover? What does this say to you about religious legalism?

- 10) What do Jesus’ words, “It is finished”, mean to YOU?

- 11) How do you think the acts of Joseph from Arimathea and Nicodemus altered their lives from this day forward?

Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

For further study:

- Zechariah 6:12
- Leviticus 24:16
- Hebrews 13:12
- Luke 23:3
- Psalms 22:18
- Acts 13:29