



Portrait of Christ

Sketches in the Gospel of John

Inductive Discovery Lesson 20
John 19:1-42

Jesus: Suffering Savior

From Gethsemane, Jesus was dragged through a series of late-night trials. First He was taken to Annas, a vengeful man who was instrumental in the plot to kill Jesus. Since the Romans had Annas removed from the office of high priest, he had no legal authority to preside over hearings. His son-in-law, Caiaphas, was now the high priest. So Annas interrogated and mistreated Jesus while Caiaphas hastily gathered enough members of the council to convene a hearing.

While Jerusalem slept, Jesus was put on trial. He did not answer their false accusations and slander. He was blindfolded, beaten, spit on and mocked. At dawn on Friday, the religious leaders convicted Jesus of blasphemy and condemned Him to die. Jesus was hauled off to the Roman governor with the entire council leading the way. Pilate wasn't inclined to get involved and tried to pawn the problem off on Herod. Herod was delighted to finally get a look at Jesus, hoping the prisoner would perform a trick for him. But when Jesus wouldn't indulge his perverse fascination or even answer his questions, Herod had Him beaten again. He mockingly draped a royal robe on Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate.

By now a crowd had gathered and Pilate saw a riot brewing. He tried to pacify them by having Jesus scourged. It was gruesome torture that left a man barely alive. Then Pilate's soldiers pressed a crown of thorns deep into His brow and brought Jesus, bloodied and unrecognizable, out where the people could see. "Behold the man," Pilate shouted, thinking it would be enough. But the frenzied mob, baited by the chief priests and officers, began to howl. "Crucify Him!" So they led Jesus away to suffer the most painful, disgraceful punishment known to man. John makes it a point to remind us that it was the day of preparation for Passover, about the sixth hour. While the priests were preparing lambs for the ritual sacrifice, our suffering Savior—the Holy Lamb of God, was dying on the cross.

Working Text for John 19:1-42
English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. **2** And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. **3** They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. **4** Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." **5** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" **6** When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." **7** The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God."

8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. **9** He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. **10** So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" **11** Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin." **12** From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this Man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. **14** Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" **15** They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." **16** So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

17 So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This Man said, I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, 25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers

pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. **35** He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. **36** For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of His bones will be broken.” **37** And again another Scripture says, “They will look on Him whom they have pierced.”

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away His body. **39** Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. **40** So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. **41** Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. **42** So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

John 19:1-16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 19:17-30

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 19:31-42

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says. _____



Take A Closer Look

...He said, *"It is finished."*
And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
John 19:30

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

Look up. What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

Look around. What does this teach you about life or people in general?

Look within. What does this teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.

Rock of Ages
Augustus Toplady

Message Notes:

A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The edges of the rectangle are irregular and jagged, giving it the appearance of a piece of torn paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.

