

The Gospel of John

Believe and Live!

Lesson 20

John 19:1–42

Pilate was unwilling to go to the severe measure of killing an innocent man, attempting instead to appease the angry crowd that only had murder on their minds. Initially pronouncing Jesus innocent of the charges (18:38), he offered to let Him go; but the Jews opted for Barabbas, a known terrorist extremist.

The synoptic gospel accounts reveal that Pilate received a warning from his wife to have nothing to do with Jesus because of her dreams about the situation. Pilate chose not to heed her warning, giving in to the political pressure from the Jewish leaders.

At a glance ~ Read John 19:1–42.

Although Pilate possessed the power and authority to determine the outcome of the circumstances, he lacked the integrity and willpower to withstand the pressure of those opposing him. Instead, he succumbed to their evil wishes. As you read through chapter 19, who do you think is in control of the situation? Was Jesus Christ's life taken from Him or did He willingly let it go? Please explain.

“When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.’” (Matthew 27:24). Thus began the mocking and torment of the Lord.

1. In your own words, summarize John 19:1–3 below.

The Romans scourged their prisoners with a leather whip woven around sharp jagged pieces of metal, bone, and stone. Each stroke of the lash broke open the skin, causing layers of torn, bleeding tissue. The severity of the beating Christ endured is evidenced by His need of assistance in bearing the cross upon His back (Luke 23:26).

2. Following Jesus' scourging, what does Pilate again do? v. 4

Pilate undoubtedly hoped that the sight of a severely beaten and abused Jesus would strike a chord of compassion with the crowd: *"Behold the Man!"* But the chief priests and officers immediately cry out: *"Crucify Him, crucify Him!"*

- a. How does Pilate respond? v. 6

As the leaders continue to chant, the others join in one voice: "crucify!"

3. In verse 7, the Jewish leaders reveal their true motive for wanting Jesus dead; what is it?

According to Greek and Roman mythology, to a pagan like Pilate, the possibility that Jesus was a "god-man" was very real. Following Pilate's third warning in verse 8, he becomes even more afraid. He returns to the Praetorium—judgment hall—to question Jesus further.

4. When Jesus does not reply, what does Pilate tell Him? vv. 9–10

- a. What does Jesus then declare to Pilate? v. 11

5. Although Pilate sought repeatedly to release Jesus, whose name is dropped that ultimately extinguishes any interest in justice that Pilate might have?

About 6:00 A.M. on Friday morning (19:14), Pilate sat down in the judgment seat—Gabbatha—and presented Jesus: *"Behold, your King!"*

- a. What extraordinary statement is made by the chief priests? v. 15

6. Looking from John's perspective, what does he tell his reader to "behold" about Jesus in the following:

- John 1:29, 36
- John 19:5
- John 19:14

"Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away."

Take a closer look ~ Isaiah 53:5

(Memorize and meditate on the memory verse each time you open your lesson.)

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

What does this verse reveal to you about Jesus? About your relationship to Him?

In focus ~ (Key words) **transgressions; iniquities**

Using the resources you have on hand (Bible translations, dictionary, concordance), research the words from Isaiah 53:5 and write a definition.

transgressions: _____

iniquities: _____

The work Jesus accomplished on the cross was a complete work that resulted in salvation for all who look to Him and believe. What did your word search reveal to you about the forgiveness you have received?

The King on a Cross

Outlook ~ Read John 19:17–27.

The most pivotal event in human history was about to be accomplished—the crucifixion of Christ! It was a horrible form of execution, usually used by Rome to punish the worst capital offenders. It entailed tying or nailing an individual to a cross so as to suspend the body by the arms, causing a slow death by suffocation. Whenever the crucified man tried to use his legs for support, he would slow the process of death, sometimes taking up to a week of suffering before he died. When the Roman soldiers wanted to hasten death, they would break the legs with a mallet, making it impossible for the prisoner to support himself.

Because of the significance of the crucifixion, we'll look at all four accounts in Scripture. Each one emphasizes details the others do not and, when studied together, they present a well-rounded perspective.

In addition to John's account, read the parallel accounts in Matthew 27:32–66; Mark 15:21–47; and Luke 23:26–56. Record the events of the cross from the references given to you below. The seven statements of Jesus from the cross are in **bold**. In your own words, briefly state what each reference reveals.

1. John 19:17 _____
2. Luke 23:26 _____
3. Matthew 27:34 _____
4. John 19:18 _____
5. **Luke 23:34** _____
6. Matthew 27:39–43 _____
7. Luke 23:39–43 _____
8. **Luke 23:43** _____
9. **John 19:26–27** _____
10. Matthew 27:45 _____
11. **Matthew 27:46** _____
12. **John 19:28** _____
13. John 19:29 _____
14. **John 19:30** _____
15. **Luke 23:46** _____
16. John 19:30 _____

Selah ~

Only John records the details concerning Jesus, His mother Mary, and the apostle John (vv. 25–27). Think of it: even in His hour of personal agony, Jesus provides out of His Shepherd's heart! What provision does He make? Since He procured your salvation and *you* belong to Him, how much more will He provide for *you*? Please share your thoughts.

“It is Finished!”

Outlook ~ Read John 19:28–42.

John tells us that Jesus knew all things and that once all things were accomplished, He uttered the words: “*I thirst!*” Earlier He refused the offer of sour wine; this time He accepts it. Once He does, He says, “*It is finished!*” At that precise moment, Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit (v. 30). Death had no power over Him—He willingly surrendered to it.

1. Because of the approaching Passover, what did the Jews request of Pilate?
vv. 31–33

a. What happened when the soldiers came to Jesus?

2. To make certain Jesus was dead, what did they do? v. 34

Had Jesus’ legs been broken, it would have violated the requirements and prophecy in Exodus 12:46, that for the Passover, the bones of the sacrificial lamb not be broken.

a. John quotes the passage from Psalm 34:20 that was fulfilled; what does it say?

b. According to the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10, what took place? v. 3

3. In contrast to the hatred and hostility of the Jews, two individuals emerge. Who are they and what good deed to they perform on behalf of Jesus? vv. 38–42

These two men kept secret their support of Jesus until circumstances drove them out in the open to honor the Lord. They anointed the body and wrapped it in linen cloths. According to Luke 23:56, the women who witnessed the burial returned home to prepare spices and fragrant oils to finish the burial following the Sabbath observance.

John paints a graphic portrayal of the trial, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus, depicting the choices of individuals as well as the consequences. And behind them all is the overriding will of a sovereign God. Pilate chose compromise and wound up with the blood of the Son of God on his hands. The crowd chose a wicked man over Jesus and wound up crucifying Him. Joseph and Nicodemus courageously chose to honor Jesus and are remembered forever in God's Word. Jesus chose the cross, securing our salvation and place with Him in eternity. He now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords and one day we will reign with Him!

Sooner or later every one of us will have a choice to make—the most important choice we will ever make—to believe in Jesus Christ or oppose Him. God has given us free will to make that choice. He knows the end from the beginning and will accomplish His plan and purpose: every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father! If you haven't already . . . will *you choose* Him today?

Close your study today with a time of prayer.

More like Jesus ~

Are *you* becoming more like Jesus? Absolutely! Every time you open the Word and spend time getting to know Him more intimately, you partake in the life-long process of drawing near—going deeper—bearing fruit—becoming more like Him. As you close your lesson today, determine to put into practice what you've learned by noting it below.

- Recite your memory verse _____

- Reflect on a lesson you received _____

- Respond with prayer and praise to God _____

Notes