

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of April 10, 2022

John 19:1-42

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

This is the week of Jesus' final judgment and crucifixion.

YOUR THOUGHTS

Have you seen a movie depicting the crucifixion of Jesus? What was that like?

Most movies focus on the horrible physical pain that Jesus suffered. It is painful to watch.

However, they do not begin to capture the inner torment of the wrath of God which was much deeper and harder.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

Rarely do we look at an entire chapter, but we will this week. John chapter 19 is a very powerful and climactic portion of Scripture. Jesus, the Son of God, came as our Messiah. John introduced this account with this notice: "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." (John 1:10-11). This dark truth unfolds in ten stark encounters. Read through the entire chapter and consider these questions and discussions.

What do you observe and feel as you read through this chapter?

This is focused on allowing people to reflect on feelings.

This account is connected by the people who encountered Jesus. Consider another read through and list the people and their role in Jesus' crucifixion.

<u>Verses</u>	<u>Who encountered Jesus?</u>	<u>Role or actions?</u>
1-8	Pilate, soldiers, the Jews	Soldiers punished Him, Pilate presented him, the Jews insisted that they Crucify Jesus for sedition (claiming that He called Himself to be the Son of God and a king)
9-11	Pilate and Jesus	Pilate's questions/Jesus' answers focused on God's will and His coming judgment for sin
12-15	Pilate, Jewish leaders	The Jews focused on the appeal to Caesar, Pilate caved God's master plan / Jesus' purpose and glorification
16-22	soldiers	Brutal crucifixion
23-24	Pilate	the notice (sign) which listed His crime (sedition) and the irony and fulfillment that Jesus is indeed the King
25-27	soldiers	fulfillment of Scripture re. gambling over his clothing
28-30	Jesus	final actions on the cross, fulfillment of Scripture, God's master plan, Jesus' accomplishment

31-34	Jewish leaders, Pilate	fulfillment of Scripture, no broken bones
35-37	John	John's testimony, fulfillment of Scripture, purpose = to encourage belief
38-42	Joseph of Arimathea Nicodemus	Two secret believers who entombed His body.

What was the role of the representatives of the Jews (Sanhedrin, Chief Priests including Caiaphas)? Why would they want this?

They were determined to have Jesus crucified. They did not have evidence to stone Him and feared the crowds who loved Jesus. They were threatened by Jesus.

What was Pilate's reaction throughout the demand for crucifixion? Why did he decide to go through with it? (4-16)

He found no evidence and sought to free Jesus. He caved when they said he would be "no friend to Caesar."

What was the significance of the "notice" on Jesus' cross? (v. 19 – A notice / sign was a common thing in crucifixions) What change did the Jews demand of Pilate? (Note: The New American Standard translation of v.21 is "but that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" Notice that "I am" words.)

Jesus was, indeed, the king of the Jews. However, the Jewish authorities wanted it changed from a statement of fact to a claim made by Jesus. Ironically, their change would have been another "I am" statement.

What is the significance of the account of the two men who entombed Jesus?

Both of these men were secret believers. Had they not have acted, Jesus body would have been left to the birds to feed (the normal for a crime of sedition). Again, you can see God working through Pilate to accomplish His plans.

These men were also carrying out God's will of the cross and resurrection.

Notice the repetition of the clause, "that the Scripture might be fulfilled." Why do you think that the author included these? (I.e., What was His purpose?)

Again, John's purpose in writing. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (20:31)

Jesus' final words, "It is finished," could be translated as "It is accomplished." Why would these be Jesus' final words? What was finished/accomplished? (See Hebrews 9:12; 10:12, 18; 12:2) (See Scriptures) Jesus fulfilled His purpose of coming to save sinners by suffering the wrath of God in our stead.

As you consider Jesus in this chapter, what do you think and feel in your heart?

Pure glory to our Lord Jesus as He pours out His love.

How were each of these people carrying out the sovereign will of God?

This is a rich thread running through this chapter.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Most movies about the crucifixion focus on the physical aspects of Jesus' crucifixion. Why do you suppose that is true? What was Jesus' response to the physical pain? Where else do we see what Jesus suffered for us?

Repeatedly throughout the garden, through the betrayal, through the abandonment, through the rejection by the Jewish leaders, and through disbelief.

John states that his purpose was "that you also may believe." How does this chapter help with that purpose?

Through the love of Jesus poured out for us, through the fulfillment of Scripture, and through our own conviction of sin.

How can we as a group, glorify Jesus right now? During the week?

Praise, thanksgiving, worship in song, communion.

THIS WEEK

We are entering the week of Good Friday and Resurrection Day. This is a wonderful time to gather with friends to give thanks, to celebrate, and to worship our Savior.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Please pray for our Good Friday and Easter times of thanksgiving and praise to Jesus
- Please pray for the friends we invite to attend Easter services
- Please pray for our Middle and High school students
- Please pray for our short-term mission teams to be complete and equipped

Love and grace to you,
Steve