

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

*Lesson 18 – Study Questions*

*John 19:1-42*

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**DAY ONE**

1. What thoughts from the Spiritual Reflection or commentary were meaningful to you this week? Record some thoughts here to share with your group.

**Read John 19:1-9**

2a. As this week's lesson begins, Pilate had asked the crowd in front of the Praetorium if they wanted him to release the "King of the Jews." Instead the crowd called for Barabbas to be let go. What did Pilate order done to Jesus in verse 1 and what do you think was his purpose?

b. The soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on Jesus' head, and clothed him in a purple cloak (verse 2). What else did the soldiers do and say to Jesus in verse 3?

3. The Messiah is described as royalty in other parts of the Bible. Read and record one of the following examples:

Genesis 49:10

2 Samuel 7:12-13

Daniel 7:14

4a. Pilate showed the crowd the scourged Jesus wearing the crown of thorns and purple cloak and said, "Behold the man!" What reason did he give for bringing Jesus out to them (verse 5)?

b. What purpose might Pilate have hoped to accomplish by bringing the mangled and disfigured Jesus out for everyone to see?

5a. The chief priests and guards shouted, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” How did Pilate respond (verse 6)?

b. The Jews answered that Jesus had broken a Jewish law deserving of the death penalty. What did they say Jesus had done to break the law?

6. How did Pilate react to the Jews’ accusation and what did Jesus do (verses 8-9)?

7. **CONNECTION:** In last week’s lesson, Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king. In today’s lesson Pilate’s soldiers, after scourging Jesus, mockingly dressed Him in a purple robe and crowned Him with a crown of thorns. The kind of suffering and humiliation our King endured for us is hard to imagine. We tend to go through life trying to avoid pain and earn approbation, rather than imitating Jesus’ kingship of selfless love. Share a time when you or another were the object of humiliation for the sake of the kingdom.

Read [Isaiah 50:6-7](#) and record verse 7. Let this thought lead you into prayer.

## **DAY TWO**

Read [John 19:10-16](#)

8. As today’s lesson begins, Pilate reminded Jesus that he had power to crucify Him and questioned His refusal to speak. Why would Pilate have wanted Jesus to defend Himself?

9. Jesus calmly pointed out that Pilate only had the power to judge Him because it was given to him from above. For this reason, who did Jesus say had the greater sin (verse 11)?

**NOTE:** Scholars debate whether the more guilty party to whom Jesus referred was Caiphas or Satan.

10. Pilate continued to try to release Jesus but was stopped by the crowd’s threat. What political implications did the crowd’s response have for Pilate (verse 12)?

11a. When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and seated Him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). Describe the time that this occurred (verse 13 and beginning of verse 14).

**NOTE: This is the time that the priests began the slaughter of the pascal lambs in the temple.**

b. Jesus' trial and execution took place in Jerusalem during the feast of Passover, which celebrated God's provident rescue of Israel from slavery in Egypt more than 1000 years earlier. Scan Exodus 12 and record a few facts that relate to verse 14 and the Passover preparation day.

12a. The exchange between Pilate and the crowd continued in verses 14-16. Fill in the blanks to complete their conversation:

He said to the Jews,

They cried out,

Pilate said to them,

The chief priests answered,

b. What takes place in verse 16?

13. **CONNECTION:** The terrible words, "We have no king but Caesar" were said rashly by the mob. With these words they were denying Jesus and accepting Caesar in his place. Yet later that same day Jesus forgave these same people saying they did not know what they were doing. In the midst of arguments, people sometimes lash out with hateful statements, hurting those to whom they owe the most. How do you react to words like these? Or, if you have lashed out in such a way, do you regret your words? Were you and the other person reconciled through God's mercy? Share some thoughts.

The first commandment requires that we worship no other god but God. Read and record Deuteronomy 5:6-7 and write a prayer in praise of the one true God.

### DAY THREE

Read John 19:17-24

14. At the end of yesterday's lesson, Jesus was taken to be crucified. In today's lesson Jesus carried the cross Himself. Where did He go (verse 17)?

15. Record the events of verse 18.

16a. Pilate had an inscription written and placed on the cross. What did it say and why do you think it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek (verses 19-20)?

b. The chief priests objected to the wording of the sign; instead, wanting it to read, "He said I am the King of the Jews." How did Pilate respond and what could have been his motivation?

17a. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four shares (a share for each soldier). Why could they not divide Jesus' tunic (verse 23)?

b. Record what the soldiers said to one another (verse 24).

18. This was done in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled, referring to Psalm 22. Skim Psalm 22:1-19, recalling that it was written approximately 1,000 years before Christ lived, and record verse 19.

19. CONNECTION: In today's verses our beloved Lord is scorned, rejected, mocked, beaten, and degraded in every way. The terrible assault on His dignity causes us to recognize the God-given dignity of each and every human person. Consider the lack of respect given to the mentally or physically challenged, the physically unattractive, prisoners, the homeless, unborn babies, the elderly or those who are politically unpopular. Could this week's lesson make you more appreciative of the infinite value of each person no matter how marginalized? Record some thoughts to share with your group.

Read and record Genesis 1:27 and write a prayer asking Jesus to help us recognize and honor Him in every person we meet.

## DAY FOUR

Read John 19:25-30

20. Standing by the cross of Jesus were several people, including Jesus' mother. List these brave ones who remained close to Jesus (verses 25-26).

21a. Jesus saw His mother and "the disciple there whom He loved" (John). Complete Jesus' words to each from verses 26-27.

He said to his mother,

Then he said to the disciple

b. What was the result (verse 27)?

22. Aware that everything was now finished and in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said "I thirst" (verse 28). Read and record Psalm 22:16.

23. The soldiers put a sponge soaked in common wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to Jesus' mouth (verse 29). Hyssop was used in Judaism to sprinkle the blood of the animal sacrificed on the altar (as well as on the people). Find and record from the Old Testament a mention of hyssop.

**NOTE:** In the Exodus God told the Israelites to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, cook and consume it. God's Covenant with the Israelite people was consummated with the eating of the lamb. Jesus celebrated the Passover meal, which includes drinking from four cups of wine, at the Last Supper. Many scholars believe that Jesus did not drink the fourth and final cup, also called the "Cup of Acceptance," at the Passover meal but waited to drink it from the sponge on the cross.

24a. When Jesus had taken the wine, what did He say (verse 30)?

b. Jesus bowed his head and handed over the spirit. Many scholars consider this to have a double meaning, one of which was that Jesus died. What else could "handed over the spirit" mean?

25. CONNECTION: Thirty-three years earlier when Jesus was taken to the temple by Joseph and Mary, she was told by Simeon, “A sword shall pierce your soul.” Now Mary, her heart pierced by her Son’s brutal death, steadfastly waited at the foot of the cross. Most of us have been blessed to experience this kind of unselfish, unconditional love from our mothers or other special women who are willing to open their hearts to us. Share with your group something your mother (or another woman) did for you that demonstrated her love.

Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, is an example of faithful love. We can ask her to intercede for us in times in sorrow so that through her prayers and maternal tenderness we might find help and consolation. Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read John 19:31-37**

26. Since it was “preparation day” (the day before Sabbath), the Jewish leaders wanted the bodies of those crucified taken down so they would not be there during the Sabbath. What did they ask of Pilate (verse 31)?

**NOTE: During crucifixion death usually came by suffocation. The victim had to push against the cross with his legs to hold up the body to keep breathing. When the legs were broken the victim suffocated and died immediately.**

27. The soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus (verse 32). What happened when the Roman soldiers came to Jesus (verse 33)?

28. Describe the events recorded in verse 34.

**THINK: Take a moment to meditate on the introduction to The Divine Mercy Chaplet. “O blood and water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us. Jesus we trust in you.”**

29. Verse 35 attests to the truth of this eyewitness account of the death of Jesus. What is the purpose of the witness’ testimony?

30a. This happened so that the scriptural prophecies might be fulfilled. Record those passages from verses 36-37.

b. Read the following passages and select a phrase or phrases that relate to verses 36 and 37.

Exodus 12:46 (hint: it is written about the Passover lamb)

Zechariah 12:10

31. CONNECTION: When a Roman soldier thrust his lance into Jesus' side, blood and water poured out. St. John Chrysostom wrote that as God took a rib from Adam's side to fashion a woman, so Christ has given us blood and water from His side to make the Church. The Church, born from the pierced heart of Jesus, has a mission to proclaim the redeeming love of God in Christ. Most people seek to construct the human world on the basis of wealth, power, force, science or pleasure. But the goal of the Church is to lead people to encounter the love of the Heart of Christ. Comment on a blessing you have received through the Church.

St. John Chrysostom also wrote, "The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own."

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read John 19:38-42**

32a. As today's lesson begins, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. How is he described?

b. Joseph of Arimathea is also described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Based on these descriptions, why do you think Pilate gave Joseph permission to remove Jesus' body?

33a. Complete the description of the preparation of Jesus' body according to verses 39 and 40.

Nicodemus

also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes

They took the body of Jesus

according to the Jewish burial custom.

b. Myrrh was an expensive spice reserved for Kings. At what other time was myrrh given to Jesus? (Refer to Matthew 2:11.)

34. Describe where the body of Jesus was laid (verse 41)?

35. What are two reasons this tomb was used according to verse 42?

36. CONNECTION: Joseph and Nicodemus were secret followers of Jesus in spite of being leaders of the Jewish high council. If their beliefs had been known, their positions and lives would have been at risk, but they were willing to risk everything to care for the Master even after His death. It is often tempting to remain silent when our beliefs become controversial. How far do you think you could go to serve the Master? Give an example of a person who has lived their faith “to the last drop.”

Read and record Matthew 20:22 and ask for the courage to stand up for your faith.

Read Lesson 18 John 19:1-42 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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