

John 19 The Crucifixion

- I. 19:1-16 Pilate's Decision
- II. 19:17-24 Jesus Is Crucified
- III. 19:25-30 Jesus Dies
- IV. 19:31-37 His Death Confirmed
- V. 19:38-42 Jesus Is Buried

I. 19:1-16 Pilate's Decision

- A. 19:1 In 18:38 Pilate said, "I find no fault in Him at all." Scourging Jesus was completely unjust at this point. In some cases prisoners actually died from the scourging. Maybe Pilate thought if they saw Jesus suffer so badly they would be willing to stop demanding His death.
- B. 19:4-6 Pilate still finds Him innocent – yet the crowd demands His death.
- C. 19:8 *he was the more afraid* Nominally, Jesus is on trial, but Pilate is the one "more afraid" - meaning he was afraid even before this. Why?
 - i. There was the bad dream of Pilate's wife involving Jesus (Matthew 27:19)
 - ii. Romans believed in demigods and human deities. Perhaps he was now wondering if Jesus was some kind of supernatural being.
 - iii. He also may have somehow sensed deep within that this was his trial – not Christ's.
 - The decision(s) we make about Jesus judge us – not the Savior.
- D. 19:10-11 Look at Christ's composure even after His scourging.
- E. 19:12 This statement was very manipulative. Pilate's position was never that secure.
- F. 19:15 The crowds wanted a political Messiah to save them from Caesar's oppression. The chief priests – speaking for the nation – declare that Caesar is their only king. This is sometimes called Israel's "formal rejection" as the job of the chief priests was to represent the nation before God and vice versa.
- G. 19:16 Pilate handed Jesus over against his own conscience. He sold his soul under pressure from Christ's enemies.
 - Don't let the same thing happen to you.

"If you want to lead an orchestra you have to turn your back on the crowd."

"Only a dead fish always goes with the flow."

 - i. Pilate ruled in Palestine for a total of ten years. Not long after this another ruler brought serious accusations against him. He was reportedly banished to Vienne, Gaul [France], although reports conflict. What they agree on is that he committed suicide.

II. 19:17-24 Jesus Is Crucified

- A. 19:18 *they crucified Him* Crucifixion was well known in Roman times. It appears to have been invented by the Persians several centuries earlier.
- B. 19:19 Pilate no doubt intended to insult the Jews with this title – yet it was so true.
- C. 19:20 Hebrew was the local language; Greek the language of scholars and the international language of trade; Latin was the language of the government of Rome.
- D. 19:24 This is from Psalm 22:18.

III. 19:25-30 Jesus Dies

- A. 19:25 *His mother* Soon after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him before the Lord. There was an old man named Simeon there who prophesied over the infant Jesus. Mary now understood what Simeon meant.

Luke 2:34-35 (NKJV) ³⁴Then Simeon ... said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

- B. *His mother's sister* Salome (Mark 15:40)? the mother of Zebedee's sons (Matthew 27:56)?
 - i. She was the one in Matthew 20:20-23, who asked a favor of Jesus regarding her sons being seated at the right and the left of Jesus in His kingdom. Jesus responded with talk about a cup and a baptism and added that those places weren't His to give. How did Salome feel then and now, looking at the thieves at the right and the left of Jesus.
 - Have you ever prayed sincerely and fervently and had the Lord say no – or at least not yet? Can you trust Him to do what's best and what's right?
- C. 19:26-27 At best John was a first cousin. Why not have her stay with one of His brothers - James, Joseph, Simon or Jude? Or one of His sisters? (Mat. 13:55-56) Certainly one or more of them was old enough by now to take care of Mary. The answer: They didn't yet believe in Him – and families ties are made tightest at the cross.
 - You will find you are closer to your brothers and sisters in Christ than to your own blood relatives if they are not followers of Jesus.
 - We need to put the cross at the center of our family relationships.
- D. 19:30 *it is finished tetelestai* Used by priests when they found a perfect sheep, ready for sacrifice. Servants, when their work was completed, used it when reporting to their masters. By merchants to mean "The bill is paid." All of these uses applied to Christ. He willingly gave up His life; He laid down His life for His friends. His suffering was over.

John 10:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷... I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. ...

Isaiah 53:3-6 (NKJV) ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But 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.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

IV. 19:31-37 His Death Confirmed

- A. 19:31 *a high day* See Exodus 12:16. The first and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread were “high days” or “holy convocations” regardless of what day of the week they fell on. Some have pointed out that this allows for a Thursday crucifixion.
- B. 19:34 *blood and water* Likely, John wrote this to confront the gnostic heresies, which denied the physical body of Jesus and His completely human side.
- C. 19:36 Fulfilling Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20. The Passover Lamb
- D. 19:37 Quoting Zechariah 12:10, but ultimately pointing to Christ's return in glory:

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

V. 19:38-42 Jesus Is Buried

- A. Joseph and Nicodemus were formerly secret disciples. Not any more.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV) ³²“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

- The power of Christian friendships: These guys have finally come completely out of the closet. It took a while, but they are now publicly identifying with Christ.
- If you lack boldness about your faith, some good solid friendships with other believers can provide some awesome encouragement. Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NKJV) Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.

- B. 19:42 *the tomb was nearby* The resurrection will take place not far from the cross. That will be true for you too. Where you've suffered is where God brings new life.