

John 19:1-20:10

Jesus' Scourging, Sentencing, Crucifixion, and Burial The Empty Tomb

Day 1

Read John 19:1-16

Jesus scourged and mocked

1. What did Pilate and the soldiers do? 19:2,3 (Read Matthew 27:26-31 for a more detailed account.) (Compare the prophetic words in Isaiah 50:6)

For Your Information: "SCOURGING" "The Romans used a whip made of several strips of leather into which were embedded (near the ends) pieces of bone and lead. The Jews limited the number of stripes to a maximum of 40 (in practice to 39 in case of a miscount), but no such limitation was recognized by the Romans, and victims of Roman floggings often did not survive."
- NIV Study Bible (1528)

"As a tool to extract a confession, the Roman soldier would beat the victim harder and harder until they confessed their crime. Because Jesus had nothing to confess, the blows never lightened on His back.
'Scourging was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution, and only women and Roman senators or soldiers (except in cases of desertion) were exempt.' (Edwards) In regard to crucifixion, the goal of the scourging was to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse and death."
- David Guzik

2. What do you think Pilate hoped to convey by his words "*Behold the man?*" 19:5 (What condition would Jesus have been in at this point?)

- How did the chief priests and officers react to seeing Him? 19:6

Food for Thought: "Pilate's word's **behold the Man** were filled with pity for Jesus, contempt for the mob, with fear and panic over his own role in this worsening situation. As the world accepts Pilate's invitation to **behold the Man**, it has seen the Man of men, the Perfect man, the unattainable Ideal of all humanity."
- David Guzik

Pilate's decision

3. What verdicts did Pilate pronounce?

18:38	
19:4	
19:6	

4. How did Pilate react to the Jews' next charge (19:7)? 19:8,9 (What do you think Pilate was wondering about by asking Jesus "Where are You from?")

- From Matthew 27:19, what else do you learn about Pilate's fear?

5. Why do you think Jesus didn't answer Pilate's question in 19:9? (Compare the answer He gave to Caiaphas, sometime earlier during this trial. Matthew 26:63,64)

For Your Information: "Pilate had rejected Jesus' first overtures. He was not interested in truth for its own sake, but only as an expedient to save himself. Consequently, Jesus had nothing to say to him, and He remained silent. There can be neither assurance nor comfort for the man who willfully compromises with truth." - Merrill Tenney (263)

6. What claim to power did Pilate make in 19:10?

- How did Jesus correct Him? 19:11a (Compare Daniel 2:21; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:20-24)

7. What did Jesus say about Pilate's guilt? 19:11 (Compare Acts 3:13-14)

For Your Information: "Pilate's guilt was limited. He was presiding over the unjust trial of an innocent man. However, as an official of the ruling power, he had been forced into this position. Moreover, he himself had not set out to arrest Jesus. Jesus had been brought to him by a person – the singular is used here – meaning either Judas Iscariot or Caiaphas, who had delivered Jesus to Pilate. If Jesus was referring to Judas, he was thinking of the fact that for three years Judas Iscariot had heard Jesus' teaching and experienced His great love, but he had repaid Jesus' goodness by betraying Him. If He was referring to Caiaphas, His point was that Caiaphas, as a Jew and the high priest, should have known better than Pilate. The Scriptures of which Caiaphas was the custodian condemned the injustice and untruthfulness that had characterized Jesus' trial." - Africa Bible Commentary (1292)

8. What effect did Jesus' answer have on Pilate? 19:12a

- How did the Jews' final threat (19:12b) affect Pilate? 19:13-16

For Your Information: "The mob wielded the ultimate threat; they planned to inform Tiberius that Pilate had supported another man's claim to sovereignty over Israel. Pilate had to choose. Tiberius or Jesus? The kingdoms of earth or the kingdom of heaven? Power or truth? The pressure of the world proved too great for Pilate. As is true of most politicians, public popularity trumped personal integrity. When forced to choose, he elected to trust in power, to serve a kingdom of the world... Jesus calls all people to serve His kingdom rather than the kingdoms of the world. Truth or power? God's way or the way of the world? Faith or works? Grace or pride? Pilate tried in vain to see a middle way, a scheme in which he could serve both or neither without having to choose, but there is none. And so we must choose" - Charles Swindoll (326,327)

9. In the following, underline what swayed Pilate.

- Matt 27:23-24 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" 24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"
- Mark 15:15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. NIV
- Luke 23:20-24 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21 But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" 22 For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." 23 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided to grant their demand. NIV

10. What day and time was Jesus sentenced? 19:14a (Some commentators think "the sixth hour" was referring to Roman time, about 6-7 a.m.)

For Your Information: "John's reference to time and day always has theological or symbolic meaning. At noon on the day of preparation, priests in the temple began slaughtering the Passover lambs in keeping with Exodus 12:6. Because they had so many worshipers to serve – as many as one hundred thousand pilgrims– the priest worked through the afternoon until sundown. John wanted to stress that Jesus had been sentenced at noon and would be hanging on the cross as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the temple."
- Charles Swindoll (327)

11. What do you think Pilate hoped to convey by his words "Behold, your King?" 19:14 (Cf. 19:5)

- What irony do you see in the reply "We have no king but Caesar." 19:15 (Who was stirring up the crowds? (Mark 15:11)

12. All four gospels relate many specific details about the investigations and trials of Jesus. Why was it important that the details of Jesus' trials be preserved? (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Optional Digging Deeper

Read through the sheet "Jesus' Trials" at the end of this lesson. What do you find most surprising or remarkable about these proceedings?

Applying the Word: What do you learn from Pilate's example? In what ways do you see yourself most pressured by or fearful of this world?

Day 2

Read John 19:17

Jesus' crucifixion

13. Who bore the cross? 19:17 (Compare Matthew 27:32) What does that say about Jesus' condition?

14. Where and with whom was Jesus crucified? (See Mark 15:27) (Compare the prophecy in Psalm 22:16,17; Isaiah 53:12)

Optional Digging Deeper

What happened with one of the criminals? Luke 23:39-43

For Your Information: " John spares the gore, only mentioning the fact of Jesus' crucifixion. This was because the agony of crucifixion was well known to the people of Jesus' day. In a addition, the true ordeal of the cross was more spiritual than physical.

Jesus was *made . . . sin for us* (2 Corinthians 5:21) and the wrath of God we deserved was poured out upon Him. This is a type and degree of suffering that is simply incomprehensible."

- David Guzik

"The crucifixion was mentioned in the fewest possible words. John, who alone of all the disciples witnessed it, said the least about it...in a day when crucifixion was still a current method of execution, it would have been too familiar to need description and too horrible a thought to deserve elaboration."

- Merrill Tenney (265)

15. Underline what Christ became or did for us on the cross.

- Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. NIV
- Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV
- John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! NIV
- Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering...NIV
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV
- Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." NIV
- Ephesians 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.NIV
- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. NIV
- 1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. NIV

16. Why did the Jews object to Pilate's inscription on the cross (19:19)? 19:20-22

17. What prophecy did the soldiers 'fulfill?' 19:23,24 (Compare Psalm 22:18) (*Mark the word "fulfill" in 18:9,32; 19:24,28,36*)

- What did Jesus say at this point? Luke 23:22,34

For Your Information: "The tunic was without seam: Jesus' seamless tunic reminds us of His role as our great High Priest, because Exodus 28:31-32 tells us that the High Priest wore a seamless garment." – David Guzik

18. From Matthew 27:39-44, what was the atmosphere at Jesus' crucifixion?

19. Who was at the cross? 19:25,26a (see also Mark 15:40,41; Luke 23:49)

20. What was one of Jesus' final acts? 19:26b,27 (*Why do you think Jesus asked John to take care of His mother, instead of one His brothers? John 7:3-5*)

21. After refusing to drink earlier (see Matthew 27:34,48), why did Jesus ask for one at the end? 19:28-30 (Compare Psalm 22:15; 69:21)

For Your Information: "I thirst" betokened Jesus' deep participation in human suffering. He endured the terrible thirst that accompanied crucifixion as a token of His voluntary sharing in all human woe. The 'vinegar' which was given to Him was the cheap sour wine which the common soldiers drank, sharp in taste and astringent in quality. Paradoxically enough, He who had offered to all men the water of life (4:14, 7:37,38) died thirsting." – Merrill Tenney (267)

22. How did Jesus die? 19:30b (Compare John 10:17,18)

- Relate the words "It is finished" (19:30) to John 4:34; Colossians 2:14,15 and Romans 6:10.

For Your Information: "It is finished!"

"Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with *tetelestai* written across them, meaning 'paid in full.' With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied." – Charles Swindoll (334)

"Jesus' final word...is the cry of a winner. Jesus had finished the eternal purpose of the cross. It stands today as a finished work, the foundation of all Christian peace and faith, paying in full the debt we righteously owe to God. – David Guzik

Optional Digging Deeper: What are some other things that happened during Jesus' crucifixion?

Matthew 27:45-54	Luke 23:44-48

Applying the Word: Consider the fact that Jesus could have retaliated at any moment during His trial, scourging, or crucifixion because He had "all authority over mankind" and "legions of angels" at His disposal. What does that convey to you?

Day 3

Read John 19:31-42

Jesus' burial

23. Why was there a rush to get the bodies down? 19:31 (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

24. What evidence did John give of Jesus' death? 19:33,34

- Why made John's testimony powerful? 19:35 (Cf. 21:24)

For Your Information: "This episode was mentioned because of its importance as evidence for the actuality of Jesus' death. The executioners were experts who could tell the difference between death and a coma induced by pain and exhaustion. Since they refrained from breaking the legs of Jesus, they obviously regarded Him as dead. Furthermore, the piercing of His side by the soldier's spear with the resulting flow of blood (crassamentum) and water (serum) is certain proof that death had already taken place, since only blood would flow from a living body." - Merrill Tenney (268,269)

25. Besides giving proof of His death, why is it significant that Jesus' bones were not broken and His side was not pierced? (19:36)?

- Exodus 12:43,46; Numbers 9:11-13; Psalm 34:20
- Zechariah 12:10

26. Who buried Jesus? 19:38,39 What phrases describe these men? (Consider the significance of what Jesus had said to Nicodemus in 3:14-17.)

- Why were these men granted permission (19:38) to have the body? Mark 15:44-46

27. Underline the phrases that describe Joseph of Arimathea:

- Matthew 27:57 And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.
- Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.
- Luke 23:50-51 And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man 51(he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God

28. What adjectives would you use to describe the actions of Nicodemus and Joseph? 19:38-42

For Your Information: "[Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus] were both secret disciples...and members of the Sanhedrin... Because it was the highest Jewish authority recognized by the Romans, those who belonged to it were powerful members of society. By asking for Jesus' body...these men risked the enmity of their fellow Jewish leaders who had brought about Jesus' death..."

If they were prepared to do so much for a dead Jesus, how much more should we, who know Him as our risen Saviour, do for Him?" - Africa Bible Commentary

"Their eagerness to claim the body of Jesus is little short of surprising since by so doing they openly declared themselves as sympathizers with His cause." - Merrill Tenney (271)

29. Where was Jesus buried? (Compare Isaiah 53:9)

Food for Thought: "The burial itself is important to the argument of John since it added one more witness to the reality of Jesus' death. It is incredible that these two men should have handled Jesus' body without knowing whether his death were actual or not. Furthermore, they never would have committed it to the tomb if they had not been convinced that the breath of life had departed."
- Merrill Tenney (271)

30. What measures were taken to guard the tomb by both friend and foe?

- Matthew 27:59-61
- Matthew 27:62-66

Applying the Word: How does the fulfillment of prophecies about Jesus' death impact you?

Day 4

Read John 20:1-10

The women at the tomb

31. What did Mary see when she went to the tomb? 20:1 (Compare Matthew 28:2-4)

- What did she think had happened? 20:2 (What can you tell about Mary's feelings from her reaction to the empty tomb?)

32. What other women were at the tomb that morning? (Note the "we" in John 20:2.) *It has been suggested that Mary ran back while the other women stayed and entered the tomb, or that Mary arrived earlier than the others.*

- Luke 23:55-24:1
- Mark 16:1

Optional Digging Deeper

For an interesting article on Christ's appearances, go to www.answersingenesis.org. Under the "Get Answers" tab go to "Article archives" and do a search of the article titled: "The Sequence of Christ's Post-Resurrection Appearances".

33. What were the women concerned about? Mark 16:2,3

- Who rolled the stone away? (See Matthew 28:2-4) *Consider: For whose benefit was the stone was moved?*

For Your Information: "The rock hewn tombs in Palestine were usually closed by a circular stone, weighing several tons, and set in a slanting groove so that when the stone was released, it would by its own weight roll into place over the door. Very little strength would be required to close the door, but the united effort of several men would be necessary to open it. Since the stone was found rolled away, it must have been moved by some powerful force and for a definite purpose."
- Merrill Tenney (280)

34. What happened with the other women? Luke 24:2-8

- How did the disciples react to the women's news of the empty tomb? Luke 24:9-12

For Your Information: "The combined accounts reveal that several women, including Mary Magdalene, came to the garden tomb to complete the burial process. ...Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us what happened to the other women (Luke 24:10), while John's record focuses on the experience of Mary Magdalene." - Charles Swindoll (339)

35. Why do you think John only told about Mary Magdalene's visit? 20:2 (Compare 19:35)

36. Which disciple arrived at the tomb first and who went in first? 20:4-6

37. What was unusual about the linen wrappings? 20:6,7

- What effect did this have on John? 20:8 (On Peter? Luke 24:12)

IT'S GREEK TO ME "**rolled up/folded up**" *entulisso* NT:1794, 'to wrap up, roll round or about,'

- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"The general sense of John's description is that the resin and linen had formed a hollow cocoon where the body had been. Someone stealing the body would have taken everything-or at least unwrapped the linens and thrown them aside."

- Charles Swindoll (340)

"The scene was of the gravecloths (and the napkin by itself) still wrapped together just as they had been, but collapsed inward. The resurrected body of Jesus had simply passed through the wrappings - as He later did through the doors (John 20:19,26)-leaving them still intact on the shelf where the body had been placed." - Henry Morris (1170)

38. What were the disciples still having trouble understanding? 20:9

- What does their response indicate about their state of mind? 20:10

For Your Information: "John explains the reasons for the disciples' slowness to comprehend the full meaning of what they saw (cf. 2:22). They did not understand the necessity of the Messiah's resurrection. Certainly prophecy alluded to His rising from the dead (Psalm 16:10-11; Hosea 6:2), but it was more a logical necessity. By the first century, Jewish scholars struggled to understand how the Messiah would suffer and die for the sake of His nation, yet overcome their enemies, lead them to prosperity, and establish a worldwide empire. One theory suggest messianic prophecies foretold the rise to two individuals, one who would sacrifice his life and another who would reign in his place." - Charles Swindoll (340,341)

"First they came to know of the resurrection through what they saw in the tomb; only later did they see it in Scripture. It is obvious they did not make up a story of resurrection to fit a preconceived understanding of Scriptural prophecy."

- NIV Study Bible (1636)