

John 19:17-30
April 13, 2025



CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

MAIN POINT

In today's text, we'll study the final events leading up to Jesus's death on the cross, where He made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. Our passage today ends with Jesus giving up His spirit on the cross, but thankfully, that's not where the story ends.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What comes to mind when you think about the cross?

What do you think comes to mind for those outside of the church?

What is the significance of Jesus being crucified during Passover?

During our study of John, we've read about Jesus's trial and subsequent conviction by Pilate. At the end of our study last week, at the insistence of Jesus's Jewish opponents, Pilate handed Jesus over for crucifixion. This week, we will read about what Jesus



endured on the way the way to the cross and the events that took place leading up to His ultimate sacrifice for us.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 19:17-24.

Last week we talked about the amount Jesus had been beaten leading to this point. Consider this state and the task of carrying the very cross on which you would be executed. How does this add to your understanding of Jesus's suffering in our place?

What did John describe in verse 24? Why would this be important to emphasize?

Up to this point, Jesus had been falsely accused, ridiculed, flogged, beaten, mistreated, and mocked. Following this humiliation, Jesus was sent to be crucified. Jesus was first brought to Pilate very early in the morning (John 18:28). All the events we have been recently studying, including today's text, happened on the same day: the preparation day of Passover (John 19:14, 42). The Jews wanted to see this deed done before the Sabbath began.

In these verses, John described Jesus carrying the cross Himself (v.17). The other Gospel accounts include record of Simon of Cyrene being forced to carry Jesus's cross when He could no longer bear the weight Himself (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26). It was normal practice for those condemned to crucifixion to carry their own cross, or if unable, to carry the crossbeam, which is possibly what happened in Jesus's case.

Crucifixion is perhaps the most brutal form of execution ever invented by the human mind. Crucifixion was designed to fully humiliate and prolong suffering and inevitable death. It was designed with a singular purpose: to deter rebellion. The ins and outs of this horrific practice aren't as well known to us today but would have been all too familiar to John's first-century audience.

Part of the humiliating spectacle of death with crucifixions was the inclusion of a sign displaying one's crime. This was put on the cross on which criminals were executed. Pilate's inscription over Jesus's cross read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (v.19). What Pilate likely meant as claim of Rome's dominance spoke to Jesus's true identity as the King of kings (Revelation 17:14).

It was normal for soldiers overseeing crucifixions to receive the clothes of the condemned, and in Jesus's case, the way these events transpired fulfilled the prophecy:



“They divided my garments among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing” (Psalm 22:18). By the fulfillment of promised events like these, we are reminded even in the lowest of moments that God’s plan cannot be thwarted.

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 19:25-27.

What does Jesus providing for Mary reveal about His character?

What are ways Jesus’s has provided for us, from the cross and beyond?

John records that four women attended the crucifixion: Mary, the mother of Jesus; “his mother’s sister” (v.25), which was probably Salome, who was Zebedee’s wife and the mother of the apostles James and John; “Mary the wife of Clopas,” who was likely “Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses” (Mark 15:40) and was also at the empty tomb (Luke 24:10); and Mary Magdalene, who was also present at the empty tomb. These loving bystanders would have stood in contrast to the soldiers casting lots for Jesus’s clothes.

The referenced disciple who Jesus loved was the apostle John (v. 26). The term “woman” was an address of affection and respect. Jesus made sure Mary would be provided for; scholars believe Joseph, Jesus’s father, had already passed away. Here is another example of Jesus putting others ahead of Himself. And John recorded that he did, indeed, care for Mary from that day forward.

🌿 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 19:28-30.

What is meant by “everything was now finished” (v.28)?

What is the significance of Jesus giving up His spirit (v.30)? How does this again remind us of His divinity?

In these verses, John recorded the final events as Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Other Gospel accounts give extra detail here that John omitted. John again referenced the fulfillment of Scripture, highlighting that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah. The inclusion of Jesus asking for a drink was both a fulfillment of Scripture (Psalm 69:21) and an emphasis on Jesus’s humanity.

A hyssop branch—the very plant the Israelites once used to mark their doorways with blood so the angel of the Lord would pass over their homes (Exodus 12:22) —delivered Jesus’s final drink. Then, as it was prophesied in Isaiah 53:12, Jesus “gave up his spirit” (v.30).

Jesus was falsely accused, suffered beatings, was insulted, and willingly gave Himself upon the cross so our sins could be freely, fully, and forever forgiven. Jesus’s redemptive work on the cross covers all our sin, past, present, and future. Jesus went to the cross “while we were still sinners” because He loves us (Romans 5:8). This isn’t



something we earn by doing good things or something we are born into; this is a gift, freely given to those who accept it. God desires a relationship with us, and if this isn't something you've entered yet, now is the time to talk to your group leader or one of our pastors.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How does this study of Jesus's crucifixion draw you toward worship?

What does today's text teach us about Jesus's character?

What can we learn from Jesus's example about taking care of those around us?

Who do you need to tell about Jesus's sacrifice on the cross?

PRAYER

Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.

Thank God for sending Jesus to the cross for our sins. Pray that He will draw those who don't know Him to accept the gift of salvation He freely offers. Ask for His help living as a Christ-like example for others.

LOOKING AHEAD

*LIFE groups will not meet on Easter Sunday. Worship will be at 7:30 / 9:00 / 10:30
We will begin a new series on Acts the next week.*

April 20, 2025 --- Easter Sunday

April 27, 2025 --- Acts 1:1-11



COMMENTARY

John 19:17-30

Every word of John's Gospel leads to this moment, for the "hour" had finally come. As if one last effort to cleanse Himself from guilt, Pilate had the title "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" fastened onto the cross where Jesus was crucified in Latin, Aramaic, and Greek (19:19). Every prophecy regarding the Messiah, even to the gambling for His clothing, was fulfilled (19:24; see Ps. 22:18).

Crucifixion was the Roman means of execution for slaves and criminals. The victim was nailed to a cross shaped either in the traditional form, or in the shape of a T, X, Y, or I. The nails were driven through the wrists and heel bones. Present at the cross were Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene (19:25). Also present was the author of this Gospel, the apostle John, whom Jesus instructed to care for His mother (19:27).

The actual death of Jesus was preceded with words fitting the narrative John had written: "It is finished" (19:30). What was finished? The mission of Jesus, the Son of God, to die a substitutionary death for sinful persons. As a result of His death on our behalf, our sin was atoned for, and eternal life through Jesus became attainable through trusting faith. With these final words Jesus "bowed his head and gave up his spirit" (19:30). This rather unusual way of describing someone's death intimates that Jesus died voluntarily as an act of the will.

