

John 19 The Crown of Thorns

So Pilate then took Jesus and had Him flogged. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head, and put a purple cloak on Him; 3 and they repeatedly came up to Him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and slapped Him in the face again and again. 4 And then Pilate came out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you so that you will know that I find no grounds at all for charges in His case."

5 Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!" 6 So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they shouted, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him; for I find no grounds for charges in His case!"

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made Himself out to be the Son of God!" 8 Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; 9 and he entered the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to Him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"

11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin." 12 As a result of this, Pilate made efforts to release Him; but the Jews shouted, saying, "If you release this Man, you are not a friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar!"

13 Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Look, your King!" 15 So they shouted, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."

The Crucifixion

16 So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified. 17 They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, carrying His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which in Hebrew is called, Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. 19 Now Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written: "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

20 Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was

crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek. 21 So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; rather, write that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts: a part to each soldier, and the tunic also; but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.

24 So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be." This happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THEY CAST LOTS FOR MY CLOTHING."

Therefore the soldiers did these things. 25 Now beside the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 So when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household. 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Care of the Body of Jesus

Now then, since it was the day of preparation, to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath for that Sabbath was a high day, the Jews requested of Pilate that their legs be broken, and the bodies be taken away. 32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other who was crucified with Him; 33 but after they came to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

34 Yet one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. 36 For these things took place so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "NOT A BONE OF HIM SHALL BE [s]BROKEN." 37 And again another Scripture says, "THEY WILL LOOK AT HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

38 Now after these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, requested of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. 39 Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred litras weight.

40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. What did the mocking, spitting, beating and dying at the cross, accomplish for humanity?
2. If Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, why did he not just let Him go?
3. 'He made Himself out to be the Son of God', is what they said.
4. Why does Pilate quiz Jesus as to who He is and where He was from?
5. Can you imagine having the authority to say, as Pilate said, 'What I have written, I have written'?
6. Why did the Jews say to Pilate, 'crucify Him, crucify Him'?
7. Why did they put a crown of thorns and a purple cloak on Jesus?
8. See how Pilate's indignation arose when Jesus refused to respond to his questions.
9. Having heard the Jews declare, 'Jesus was the King of the Jews', Pilate is afraid. Why?
10. Pilate may have had authority, but he was too weak to use it!
11. Jesus reminds Pilate that his authority has been delegated to him by God.
12. Jesus reassures Pilate who will really be accountable for this injustice.
13. Fear prevents Pilate from doing the right thing. Has fear ever done this to you?
14. Pilate gives way to Jewish pressure and passes judgement on Jesus.
15. When Pilate said 'behold, your King', to the Jews, was he provoking them to take responsibility for the judgement?
16. Their response was, 'we have no King but Caesar'.
17. Having received the judgment from Pilate, they lead Jesus away to crucify Him.
18. Why did the chief priests attempt to get Pilate to re-write the inscription?
19. The crucifixion of the Saviour and what took place, had been prophesied in Jewish history, now these prophecies were being fulfilled.
20. Look how even in death Jesus takes care of His Mum, by providing for her another protector son.

21. It shows how much Jesus trusted John.
22. What did it mean when Jesus said, 'all things have been accomplished'?
23. Was there any significance in Jesus declaring, 'I am thirsty'?
24. Why did they give Him sour wine on a sponge?
25. Why did He say, 'it is finished'?
26. The Passover Festival interrupted the crucifixion of Jesus so everything went on hold.
27. To accelerate death the soldiers broke the legs of the two men on the cross that were beside Jesus.
28. But because Jesus had already gone, they didn't break His, another prophesy fulfilled.
29. The soldier thrust the spear into Jesus side, blood and water flowed, a sign that death had occurred.
30. John steps out of his role as the narrator of these events and aligns himself as the one who saw these things and testifies.
31. God provided provision for the body and burial of Jesus.
32. Joseph, a secret believer, had asked Pilate for the body of Jesus so he could bury it.
33. Nicodemus, also a believer, supported Joseph with embalming.
34. The unused tomb provides a temporary resting place for the body of Jesus.