

Take a moment right now to write down the thoughts going through your head so that you can focus on God's Word. Thoughts about what you have to do today, struggles you are having, any sin you need to confess, etc.

Take a moment to thank God that He uses all things in your life to know Him more and more, both good things and hard things. Write out a prayer below if you would like.

### **It is Finished!**

In today's devotion, we will read through the crucifixion of Jesus. It is hard to fully grasp what happened to Jesus in just this reading. We wear crosses around our necks, as tattoos, and as earrings, because we see it as victory. The cross, though, is possibly the most torturous way for criminals to die. The Romans wanted to do this so people would be steered away from crime. It is crazy to think that God would have Jesus come to earth during this time instead of another time when a way of death could be less painful. In this we see Jesus, fully human and fully God, paying the price for our sins and being the ultimate sacrifice. Let that sink in as you read it today.

**John 19:1–3** <sup>1</sup>Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup>And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup>They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

- 1) What do you think was going through Jesus' mind as He was being beaten as a criminal and mocked?

**John 19:4–11** <sup>4</sup>Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup>So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup>When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." <sup>7</sup>The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." <sup>8</sup>When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>So Pilate said to him,

*“You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”* <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, *“You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”*

- 2) Underline the different characters in these verses and then write their attitude toward the situation.
  
- 3) How does Pilate try to have Jesus not be crucified? Why do you think he does this?
  
- 4) It seems as if Jesus is powerless in these verses, but we know He is all powerful. How would you explain this?

\*Note on the verses below: The title friend of Caesar (Latin, *amicus Caesaris*) was an important consideration. Tiberius was on the throne and he was sick, suspicious, and often violent. Pilate had plenty to cover up and he did not want an unfavorable report to go to his boss. If he had to choose between showing his loyalty to Rome or siding with a despised and strange Jew, there was no question in his mind. The dilemma had to be resolved, so Pilate made the official decision.

**John 19:12–16** <sup>12</sup>*From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.”* <sup>13</sup>*So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.* <sup>14</sup>*Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”* <sup>15</sup>*They cried out, “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 but Caesar.”* <sup>16</sup>*So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.*

- 5) Pilate is trying to mock the Jews by calling Jesus “their King”. Why is this ironic?
  
- 6) From verse 15, why would the chief priests be willing to kill Jesus and even claim loyalty to Rome when they hated the Romans?

7) What does this tell us about the condition of the human heart and soul?

**John 19:17–22** *So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup> and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.<sup>21</sup> So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”*

8) The moment seems so bleak right now, but we know the glorious ending. How does knowing the ending change how you view Jesus’ crucifixion?

9) Think about the fact that it should be you and I on the cross and yet Jesus is on there. How do you sense the love of God for you as Jesus is humiliated and hung on a criminal’s cross?

10) How does this impact your understanding of how God feels toward you?

\*Note on the verses below: The soldier’s activity in stripping Jesus and dividing His clothes was part of the customary cruelty of those times. Clothes were handmade and therefore expensive in comparison with clothes today.

**John 19:23–24** *<sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,<sup>24</sup> so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,*

*“They divided my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.”*

- 11) The soldiers may have thought they were in control, but Jesus would have the final judgment. Whether it be persecution or ridicule or times of trial like the Corona virus, how does Jesus' supreme power and authority over all things give you comfort?

**John 19:25–27** *So the soldiers did these things, <sup>25</sup>but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

- 12) Describe the stark contrast between Pilate, the religious leaders, the Roman soldiers and then Jesus, Jesus' family and friends and the disciple.

- 13) How should we as Christians be starkly different than those around us?

**John 19:28–30** *<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

- 14) While it may seem like a minor detail, why do you think it is important to know Jesus said, "I thirst"?

- 15) When Jesus says, "It is finished" what does He mean? What happened on your behalf at this point?

- 16) How should Jesus' completed work on the cross affect you today?