

## **John 19 — ESV**

Thanks for coming! Last week, we had a bit of a cliff hanger. Jesus was betrayed by Judas, and arrested. He had 3 trials one with Annas, one with Caiaphas, and we started one with Pilate.. What will Pilate decide? We get to find out tonight..

--Pray

One thing I noticed as I studied this passage is that one of the main themes has to be the fulfillment of prophecy. There certainly are a lot of other things that we are going to cover tonight, but I will throughout the entire passage point out different things that Jesus did exactly as the Bible said he would. Just to set the stage, Lets take a look at what the Prophet Isaiah said about Jesus and how and why he would die. This was written more than 700 years before Christ came to earth:

**Isaiah 53:**

**1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

**2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.**

**3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

**4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

**5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.**

**6 All 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.**

**7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.**

**8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?**

**9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.**

**10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**

**11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.**

**12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

John 19 Vs 1 here we go:

**1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.**

**2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.**

**3 They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.**

**4 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."**

If you are going to find guilt in somebody, I would suggest that undeserved Flogging, Humiliation, and Mocking would be the sure recipe to bring it out. If somebody has an ugly side, it will certainly emerge. Pilate was surely noticing that Jesus was not an ordinary man. "I find no guilt in him"

It is easy to keep the Christian facade up while everything is comfortable and peaceful. I suspect that there are times when none of us appear to be Christians.. As Americans, our faith may not be tested to the point of bloodshed like our brothers and sisters overseas have to endure. One has to wonder how we would fare. I am guessing based on our reaction to the persecution we feel in traffic or at the TSA counter, we might not fare so well...

Heb 12:

**3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.**

**4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**

When we face hostility, (And we all do) How far will you resist Sin? How far do I resist? Do we build up our endurance? Do we consider Jesus when we suffer? I think we really need to. All suffering is tied to the Cross. It is either hostility aimed at God, driving the nails, flogging and mocking God, or it is absorbed by the grace of God, when he sent his Son to die in the place of those sinners, paying the price for those sins. --Pause--- In either case, that suffering belongs to him. When we make it about ourselves, we steal are stealing glory from him. --Pause--

**5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"**

**6 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."**

**7 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."**

**8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.**

What do we figure Pilate was afraid of? I have to wonder if he was beginning to see Jesus for who he was. The Jew's accusations against him made as much sense as anything else. He is the Son of God.

**9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.**

**10 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?"**

**11 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."**

Some people will teach that Sin is sin, and every sin is equally bad. This passage is a pretty good indicator that they are wrong. All sin is bad. All sin qualifies us for hell, but some of us have greater sin than others.

Governments are somewhat amoral. They really are more of a machine than a person. The president says when taking office: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." No matter what the personal conviction are he is going to chartered to make the decision to preserve and protect the constitution of the United States. If he decides to do something else, say turn the other cheek, he isn't doing the job that he was hired to do, and his boss is sure to fire him in the next election.

We don't know for sure what Pilate's charter was, but it most likely was to rule the province in a way that maximized the efficiency and profitability of the Roman empire. Jesus knew that Pilate was bound to make the decision that he thought was in the best interest of Rome, and he knew that God had a plan when he put Him in the place to make that judgment. Pilate was only an instrument of self preservation in a rather hopeless machine. He is still a sinner, but not in any unexpected way...

On an individual level, we tend to live our lives according to a charter as well. We make our decisions in accordance to the values that we live by. We are not terribly unpredictable if we know what the underlying values are. If we constantly find ourselves sinning, chances are good that we have let something else become our charter. We have let something take the place of God.

**12 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."**

This was a very tumultuous time for the Roman Empire, and it is likely that Pontius Pilate was pretty impotent as a lame duck ruler at this point. Historically he had been harsh with the Jews that he governed. He would bait them into getting angry and disruptive, and then he would use his military might to destroy the Jewish culture.

Although we cannot be certain, Pilate was most likely appointed by a quasi-emperor named Sejanus, who was the emperor's right hand man. The actual emperor, Tiberius had mostly retired in AD 26, but his legal successors had not yet come of age. Tiberius was living in self-exile on the island of Capri. Looking through biblical history this is a very common setup. In Genesis, Pharaoh had Joseph, In Esther, King Xerxes (Ahasuerus) had Haman, then Mordecai. Being king was hard work, and while the title was cool, the constant threats to your life by brothers and cousins, and the constant hassle of having to deal with people's problems wore on them, and it was not uncommon for a king to delegate much of his responsibility to a manager.

Sejanus knew that his days were numbered, so he was constantly interfering with the potential emperors, trying them for treason, and trying to marry into the family of the Caesars. It was not uncommon for monarchs to have to kill treasonous brothers and cousins. Sejanus had full control of the Roman government's military and political apparatus, and he did his best to keep the senate from squealing to Tiberius about his treachery.

Of course the Politicians enjoyed having their heads attached to their bodies, so they tended to support the guy who had the capability to remove it.

About 31 AD, Tiberius got word of Sejanus's treasonous leadership, and sent a letter to the Senate demanding his arrest. Sejanus, thinking that the letter was going to appoint him Emperor, was fooled, captured, tried, convicted and executed.

So back to Pilate... His boss, possibly the one who hired him, was a traitor. Everyone who was associated with Sejanus was a suspect, being investigated. The dominoes were falling, and Pilate was likely afraid he was next in line. Sejanus's militaristic and genocidal laws were ripped out of the official record. He didn't want to rule in any way that looked Sejanus - like. His hands were tied.

All of this, created the perfect storm to allow the Jewish authorities to demand a blatantly unjust death warrant and have an governor, who pretty much despises them, grant it. They knew the tightrope that Pilate was walking. So they said: **"If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."** These were words that Pilate could not ignore.

**13 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.**

**14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"**

**15 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."**

"We have no king but Caesar" "We have no king but Caesar"

**16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,**

**17 and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.**

**18 There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.**

**19 Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."**

**20 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.**

**21 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.'"**

**22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."**

Pilate honored Jesus with this quote. He annoyed the Jews, but what he wrote the Truth.

Deut 17 defines the Qualifications Israel's King:

**14 "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,'**

**15 you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.**

**16 Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.'**

**17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.**

**18 "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.**

**19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,**

**20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.**

Jesus fulfilled this role beautifully. He was the one God chose, He was a Jewish Brother. He did not acquire horses, wives or gold, He knew the scripture inside and out. God warned the Kings not to lift their hearts above their brother's How well did Jesus model this for us?

Philippians 2:

**5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,  
6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

**8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Jesus was a great King. But the Jews confess: "We have no king but Caesar." -- Caesar was retired on an island, too lazy to lead his people. Tiberius didn't want to have his life at risk anymore. He didn't want to deal with people's problems anymore. He had a hired hand take all of the heat for him. Jesus took the world's problems on himself---- Jesus laid down his life for his sheep---

**23 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,**

**24 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." So the soldiers did these things,**

**25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

**26 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 to his own home.**

Being a follower of Jesus isn't always pretty. It has it's points of pain and anguish. His followers here are certainly experiencing one of those painful moments. Hopeless- emotionally tormented - Crucificion was about the ugliest and most painful ways to die that man had ever invented, and some of his followers where right there at his feet.

Notice, that it is at the deepest anguish that some of the greatest relationships are formed. "behold your son, behold your mother"--- When our brothers or sisters are suffering, are we at their side? Do we walk towards suffering or cringe away from it. I tell you, some of those sufferings that Jesus took to the cross, they are happening all around us. The family that is broken, and impoverished. The drug culture destroying lives, alcoholism, gambling, prostitution, Those in prison, the hungry, the sick. Do we reach out to the afflicted? Do we provide comfort? Do we care at all? or are they just litter on the sides of our lives?

**28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."**

**29 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.**

**30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.**

"It is finished" -- Probably the shortest and most critical sermon for us to understand as believers in the whole Bible.

We no longer need to pay back God for all the wrongs that we have done. It is finished, Jesus paid our penalty.

We can now forgive and love our enemy, as we know that Jesus has dealt with their Sin. He has paid restitution to us with his precious blood. It is finished.

We no longer need to fight to exploit every second of the this life, it is finished, and we will raise again to eternal life with Christ.

We no longer need to impress everyone and look righteous. It is finished, and he has planted in us a new nature.

Understanding "It is finished" is the difference between trusting him, and trying to earn it ourselves. The finished work of Jesus Christ should be our motive, not our Goal.

----- Because of who he was, and what he did, we are free to follow him, and to do the kind of things that he did. Without what he did, we are powerless.

**31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.**

**32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him.**

**33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.**

**34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.**

**35 He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth--that you also may believe.**

**36 For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."**

**Psalm 22**

**14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

**15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.**

**16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet--**

**17 I can count all my bones-- they stare and gloat over me;**

**18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.**

**37 And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."**

**Psalm 34: 17-22**

**17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.**

**18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.**

**19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

**20 He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.**

**21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.**

**22 The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

**Zechariah 12:10**

**10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.**

**38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.**

**39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.**

**40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths 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 a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.**

**42 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.**

So as we wrap this up, Jesus is buried in the Rich man's tomb, just as Isaiah said he would be.

We saw that he was scourged, He was peirced, None of his bones where broken, He was thirsty, He was poured out like water, and buried in a rich man's tomb. All of these things happened exactly as the Bible Prophesized they would.

Jesus was a man of peace and self control

Jesus was willing to fill the role of King - in the best kind of way.

This happened exactly as God planned for it to happen. It is finished, and we are reconciled to God.

--pray--