

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 21

Review: Last time we went through chapter 18. John chapter 18 records the betrayal, arrest, denial, and trial of Jesus Christ. The narrative shifts from Jesus' intimate final prayers with His disciples to the chaotic and unjust events leading directly to His crucifixion. Throughout the chapter, John highlights Jesus' total divine control, dignity, and willingness to fulfill God's plan.

John 19:1-5 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *him*. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put *it* on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man! *Pilate had Jesus scourged hoping to satisfy the bloodlust of the people without having to put him to death on the cross. The Roman soldiers were brutal and mocked him. Pilate brought him forth beaten, bloody, and humiliated and said, "Behold the man!" in other words "Look at him! Isn't this enough?"*

- **The scourging of Jesus** – The soldiers used a multi-tailed leather whip embedded with bone and metal to tear his flesh, causing severe physical trauma and blood loss. **Psalm 129:3** The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows. *A furrow is a long, narrow trench or groove cut into the soil usually made by a plow.*

John 19:6-11 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. *Pilate tried everything he could think of not to crucify Jesus. When he heard the phrase "Son of God" his ears really perked up. The Lord would no longer answer Pilate because the truth he gave him was counted as worthless. When Pilate tries to throw his authority around, Jesus let him know that the only reason that this is happening is because it has been given from above (meaning the Father has allowed it). BUT he mentions a greater sin...Judas has the*

greater sin in this because he initiated it and betrayed Christ. Even though Pilate tried not to be responsible, he's the one that gave the order for crucifixion.

- **Is Judas responsible for what he did?** Some people believe that Judas was predestined to betray Christ and therefore had no choice in the matter. That isn't true. But it was foretold, so how could he be responsible? It was foretold because it was FOREKNOWN. Since God foreknows all things, He can use what He knows people will do to accomplish His will. Christ even said "he has the greater sin" making him responsible for his actions.

John 19:12-16 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away. *Pilate believed that Jesus was the King of the Jews. He feared him, but he died lost because he did not repent! Belief without repentance will not save anyone. When he was faced with siding with Christ or losing his position in the Roman government, he sat down on the judgment seat and condemned him to death.*

John 19:17-22 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, *and* Greek, *and* Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

- **Bearing the cross** – The horizontal crossbeam which was what was customary to carry weighed between 75-125 pounds. The vertical post often stayed fixed at the execution site, but if an entire complete cross was moved, the total weight would be nearly 300 pounds. Jesus would have carried it about 1/3 of a mile before being nailed to it.
- **Pilate's confession** – The condemned had their charges written on death certificate for the public to know what they had done. Pilate didn't write any on the death

certificate of Jesus but proclaimed in the three major languages of the day that Jesus was the King of the Jews. This upset the chief priests but Pilate would not change it.

John 19:23-27 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also *his* coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did. Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

- **His seamless coat** – This was a woven robe with no seams in it to understand it better we have to look at **Exodus 28:31-32** And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue. And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent. *This was a woven seamless garment wore by the High Priest made so that it could not be tore. It represented righteousness, holiness, and a calling directly from God. They chose to gamble for it instead because it was valuable.*
- **Simeon's prophecy fulfilled** – When Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the Temple to present him to the LORD, Simeon took Jesus up in his arms and said **Luke 2:34-35** And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.
- **John takes the care of Mary** – John understood what the Lord meant by “Behold thy mother!” Joseph is dead and Jesus is the oldest male child in her house. Since he’s going away, he wants John to take responsibility for caring for his mother. He called her “John’s mother” showing that they are brethren now.

John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

- **Fulfilling scripture - Psalm 69:21** They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. *The vinegar was sour wine that kept on hand to quench the thirst of the Roman soldiers.*

John 19:31-37 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. *Crucifixion was an agonizing torturous death. The condemned were not meant to die quickly. The main cause of death was asphyxiation due to hanging by the arms made breathing difficult, forcing victims to push up on their nailed feet to inhale until they grew too exhausted to lift themselves. Roman guards would occasionally break the legs of the victims to stop them from lifting themselves up, causing rapid suffocation within hours.*

- **Two sabbaths during the week of Jesus crucifixion** – an annual High Sabbath (the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread) and the regular weekly sabbath. The reason we know this isn't Friday before Saturday is because the verse tells us this sabbath was "an high day". The Jews wanted Jesus and the others off the crosses because the high sabbath was the next day.
- **Blood and water** – The flow of blood and water shows his heart and body had stopped, a fact which John bore witness to. This meant that Jesus was already dead and there was no need to break his legs also fulfilling prophecy.

John 19:38-42 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

- **The preparation of Jesus body** – Joseph and Nicodemus had to act fast because the high sabbath starts at sundown and its already late afternoon. Nicodemus who had some reservations about being public about his interest in Jesus, now comes publicly with an extravagant mixture of myrrh and aloes. The hundred pound weight would be worth roughly \$150,000-\$200,000 in modern purchasing power. He was wrapped in linen which was customary for the Jews.
- **The burial of Jesus** – They buried him in Joseph's new rock-hewn tomb in a garden near the sight of his crucifixion. This is also prophecy fulfilled. **Isaiah 53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in his mouth. They buried him close to where he died again because of time.

Tonight's application: Clearly Pilate believed that Jesus was more than a man and definitely believed he was King of the Jews. He was not saved though he was at the doorstep because when he reached the crossroads, he would not repent. Today in the American church, repentance has been either redefined to water it down or cut out altogether. Can people be saved by just simply believing in Jesus? Let's look at the scriptures:

Luke 13:2-3 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 24:46-47 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 20:20-21 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Bible, repentance means a deep and fundamental change of mind, heart, and direction. It is not just feeling sorry or guilty for doing wrong; it is a total turning away from sin and a turning toward God. We know the prodigal son repented because he got up from the hog pen and left the far country and came home to his father and pleaded for forgiveness.

