

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of John¹

Week 21 ~ Exploring John 18:1-19:42

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

Day 1: Please read John 18:1- 27 at least twice and then answer the following questions:

- Read the parallel accounts in Matthew (26:36 - 27:10), Mark (14:32-72) and Luke (22:39-71). Make a list of all the items that are unique to the Gospel of John. Also list items that are omitted in John. Write a short essay in which you address the unique approach of John to these events. Are there any unique theological themes in 18:1-27 that remind you of material covered earlier in this Gospel?

Day 2: Please read John 18:1- 27 and then answer the following questions:

- On a piece of paper, divide this passage up into paragraphs, to the best of your ability. What is the central point of each paragraph? Explain.
- In a paragraph or two each, try to describe the emotional state of each of the main characters who appear in this passage, Jesus, Peter, the other disciple, Annas.
- Can you think of times in your life when you have yielded to the temptation to take matters into your own hands (cf. John 18:10, 11)? What were the long-term consequences? What strategies could you apply to help you trust God more consistently in your life? What kinds of things do you say to others when life seems totally out of their control? What kind of reactions do you get? What would have been the long-term consequences for this world if Peter had succeeded in preventing Jesus from going to the cross?

Day 3: Please read John 18:28-19:16a at least twice and then answer the following questions:

- Read the parallel accounts in Matthew (27:11-31), Mark (15:1-20) and Luke (23:1-25). Make a list of all the items that are unique to the Gospel of John. Also list items that are omitted in John. Write a short essay in which you address the unique approach of John to these events. Are there any unique theological themes in 18:28 - 19:16a that remind you of material covered earlier in the Gospel?

¹ Much of this study is quoted and/or adapted from Jon Paulien and George R. Knight, *John: Jesus Gives Life to a New Generation*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press, 1995).

Day 4: Please read John 18:28-19:16a and then answer the following questions:

- Write a paragraph or two on the motivations and emotions Pilate as he works his way through the issues that confront him. Do the same for the religious leaders. In what ways are their reactions to Jesus similar? In what ways are they different?
- Note the various times that Pilate addresses Jesus in this passage. Try to write out an explanation of why Jesus responds on some occasions but remains silent on others.
- Describe a time in your life when, like Pilate, you had to choose between worldly position and reputation, on the one hand, and what you knew to be right. What decision did you make? Why? What were the consequences? Would you make the same decision today? If you had been with Pilate that day, what advice would you have offered him, if asked?

Day 5: Please read John 19:16b-42 at least twice and then answer the following questions:

- Read the parallel accounts in Matthew (27:32-66), Mark (15:21-47) and Luke (23:26-56). Make a list of all the items that are unique to the Gospel of John. Also list items that are omitted in John. Write a short essay in which you address the unique approach of John to these events. Are there any unique theological themes in 19:16b-42 that remind you of material covered earlier in the Gospel?

Day 6: Please read John 19:16b-42 and then answer the following questions:

- In light of the entire episode, what do you think was the "official" reason that Jesus was crucified. Explain.
- Compare each of the quotations of Scripture in this passage with the OT context from which the text was quoted. Does John's use accurately reflect the intention of the original? Why do you think that John highlights the fulfillment of Scripture so strongly here? List ways in which this fulfillment motif might aid Christian witness, whether in John's time or today.

Additional Application Questions:

- Are there any places or circumstances where you feel compelled to be a "secret disciple?" Are there any people with whom you have great difficulty being honest about your faith in Jesus? What motives drive you to hide your faith at times? What insights have enabled you, in the past, to speak out boldly at times? Is there a current situation in which you need to step out boldly and let others know where you stand? What would it take to get you to "go public" for Jesus?
- Both Jesus and Pilate had to deal with religious leaders whose minds were made up in advance. Describe a situation in which you had to deal with a person like that. How did you respond? Would you respond differently now? How should a Christian respond when the issue at stake has to do with his or her faith?