

## 33. John 19:6b-42

### Getting started

When you think of Jesus, what picture comes to mind? *[People have all sorts of images. Some see him on the cross. Some see him healing or teaching. Some see him risen. Some see him sitting at the right hand of his Father in heaven.]*

### Observation

1. How do we know Pilate was tired of the Jews, and thought little of them? *[He sends them away to do something they were not allowed to do.]*
2. Is Pilate interested in justice or power?
3. How do the Jews increase the pressure on Pilate?
4. Why should the Jews have been convicted of blasphemy, not Jesus? *[They said they had no king but Caesar, whereas God was supposed to be their king.]*

### Interpretation

1. What do you think Jesus means when he says to Pilate that, 'the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin'?
2. Why do you think the details of the crucifixion are so sparse, little more than 'here they crucified him'? *[The immediate audience of the gospel knew the horrors crucifixion.]*
3. What irony is there in the sign that hung above Jesus' head? What is the purpose of mentioning the sign in this way?
4. What Scriptures are fulfilled in the details John gives us of Jesus' death?
5. What is the point of John mentioning that Scripture was being fulfilled? *[Both to link to the specific passages in the Old Testament and to show that God was, and had always been, in control. This was not a 'drive-by' crucifixion.]*
6. How would you paraphrase Jesus' request at verse 27? *[Something like, 'Hey, please look after my mum!']* What does this show? *[Among other things, that even as he was dying Jesus could still think of others, and he fulfilled the law in honouring his mother.]*

7. In verse 30, what was 'finished'? *[Not just Jesus' life and the ordeal of crucifixion, but God's whole plan that he would save humanity through Jesus. The Greek word that is translated 'finished' captures the idea of completion. Jesus had completed his mission on earth. He had taught all he needed to teach. He had shown the way to the Father, and now he could die as the supreme and final sacrifice for the sins of the world he had come to save. This also picks up the words that introduce the foot washing back in chapter 13. Jesus had loved to the end. Finished. Accomplished. Ended. It's the same Greek word, telos. Jesus had done what he had come to do. And from that flows forgiveness, and the offer of eternal life to all who believe.]*
8. Why the details in verse 31-37? Is there any symbolic significance in the flow of blood and water? *[A number of suggestions are made by commentators. For me, the best explanation is that these are signs of the life and cleansing that flows from Jesus' death. The blood of Jesus, the symbol of his sacrificial and redemptive death, cleanses us from every sin, while the water is symbolic of cleansing, new life and the Spirit.]*
9. What is the significance of Nicodemus turing up at verse 39? *[Look back at chapter 3. He met Jesus in the dark. Now he is serving Jesus in the light. He has been born again.]*
10. Why mention the 34 kilograms of myrrh and aloes? *[Jesus was really dead. He was about to start stinking! Better cover the smell quickly.]*
11. What is the significance of Jesus being buried in a garden? *[It could just be a detail to add to testimony of his death. But it could also link back to the garden in Genesis 1&2.]*

## **Implications**

1. What is this story makes you sad?
2. What in this story gives you hope? *[Scripture was fulfilled. Even on this darkest of days, God's promises were still being fulfilled. The sharing of the clothes connects the removal of the clothes and the foot-washing John records in chapter 13, and points to the more complete cleansing on the cross. Jesus' words, 'It is finished' are not words of defeat but words of total victory.]*

## **Prayer suggestions**

1. Praise God for what he has done for us.
2. Thanks that we get to share in Christ's victory.
3. Request that everyone will see what God has done for us, and believe.