

## From Death to Life – John 19:16–20:23



MEMORY VERSE: When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished, and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. John 19:30

### DAY 1 JOHN 19:17-24 — The King on the Cross

1. John’s account of the crucifixion is concise. Why do you think Pilate wrote the inscription he did and then refused to change it?
2. What details does Mark 15:17-18, 29-32 add about how Christ was treated?
3. In the midst of mocking and derision, what did Jesus ask of God? Luke 23:34
4. Compare the attitude and fate of the criminals on either side of Jesus. Luke 23:39-43
5. What specific fulfillment of prophecy did John record? vv.23-24

### LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” (John 12:24-25) It was time for Jesus to prove this truth.

### DAY 2 JOHN 19:25-30 — Sacrificial Love

6. The cross was the greatest ever act of sacrificial love. How else did Jesus show His love even while He was dying on the cross? vv.25-27

7. What did Jesus mean when He said, “It is finished?” vv.28-30

Hebrews 10:11-14

Isaiah 53:5

8. What extraordinary details did Matthew include about Jesus’ death on the cross? Matthew 27:45-56

9. King David wrote Psalm 22 about 1000 years before Christ was born. What prophetic words in this Psalm do you see?

10. What do these prophetic events tell you about God’s plan and man’s free will? Proverbs 16:9

### DAY 3 JOHN 19:31-42 — Preparation and Burial

11. What strikes you as ironic about verse 31? See also 18:28

12. God instituted Passover when He brought the Jews out of 430 years of bondage in Egypt. How did the crucifixion prove that Jesus was the Passover Lamb? vv.31-37

Exodus 12:5-7,23-24,46

Zechariah 12:10-12

13. What do we learn about Joseph of Arimathea after Christ's death? v.38

Mark 15:42-43

Luke 23:50-56

14. What did Joseph and Nicodemus do for Jesus, and what does this reveal about their faith?  
vv.38-42

15. What further action did the chief priests and Pharisees take against Jesus? What does this tell you about their understanding of what Jesus meant when He said "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up?" (John 2:19) Matthew 27:62-66. Look at Matthew 26:60-61 for help.

#### **DAY 4** JOHN 20:1-18 — The Empty Tomb and the Risen Christ

16. Why is it not surprising that Mary was one of the first to discover the empty tomb? vv.1-2

Mark 15:40-41

17. "The disciple who Jesus loved" is John, the author of this gospel. Why do you think he described his foot race with Peter to the tomb as he did? vv.3-10

18. What happened when Mary was weeping outside the tomb? vv.11-18

19. Can you think of any reasons that might explain why Mary did not at first recognize Jesus and why He told her not to cling to Him?

20. Why do you think Jesus treated women so very well?

## DAY 5

## JOHN 20:19-23—Jesus Appears to the Disciples

21. Describe the circumstances of Jesus appearing to the disciples. vv.19-23

22. Why do you suppose Jesus showed them His hands and side?

23. Why do you think Jesus said “Peace be with you,” not once but twice, to His disciples?

24. What mission and provision did Jesus give His disciples?

25. We know that people do not have the power to cause one to not be forgiven by God as He offers forgiveness to all. What then does verse 23 mean in relation to their mission?

## LOVE THE TRUTH

There is no greater love than Christ's death on the cross and there is no greater miracle than His rising from the dead. Our Christian faith rests on these facts. The ramifications of these truths affect our lives for all eternity, as well as every day we have here on earth. We live because He is risen!

## John 19:16–20:23

### From Death to Life

The crucifixion of Christ is painful and difficult to dwell on, but so important for us to remember and value. No person in history has gone to the lengths that God did for us through Jesus Christ. At least 18 laws were broken in His rigged trial, including conspiracy, bribery, false testimony, abuse, lack of charge or evidence, and even the time the trials were held. There is no more shameful, humiliating or disgraceful death than the crucifixion Christ willingly suffered for us.

It is fascinating to see how God worked His plan through the actions of people who did not know Him, all for the benefit of those who yearned to know Him. Pilate placed the inscription, “The King of the Jews,” on the cross in three languages Aramaic, Latin and Greek. Aramaic and Hebrew were quite similar but Hebrew was spoken by the religious leaders, government and upper class, while Aramaic was the language of the common people. Jesus and His disciples likely spoke Aramaic rather than Hebrew. At the time of Christ, Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire, though it was mostly used for legal purposes. The common people in Rome would likely have spoken Greek. These three translations of “The King of the Jews” would therefore have been understood by everyone—the Romans, the Jews, the Gentiles, soldiers and even travelers. More importantly, the inscribed truth would have been understood by the common people who were often the most needy and receptive to Christ.

When Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross, he said, “Telelestai,” meaning it is finished. It would have been common for a servant to say Telelestai meaning, “I have completed the work you gave me” or “my work is finished.” Merchants would have used this word to say, “The debt is paid in full.” Jesus not only finished the work God gave Him of paying the debt for our sin, but He also took our guilt away. His selfless act was not just an example of love, but actually accomplished redemption. He suffered separation from His Father so we do not have to.

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus flew under the radar with their faith in Christ. Because of this, they were able to prepare His body for burial and place Him in Joseph’s own new tomb. It is important to confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, but it also takes wisdom to know when to stay quiet. These pharisees were courageous in what they did for Jesus, especially considering that the Pharisees paid the soldiers to lie about the empty tomb and say Christ’s body was stolen by the disciples. (Matthew 27:60, Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 28:11-15)

### WALK IN TRUTH



Jesus placed uncommon value on women, who had no standing in society. They were at the mercy of men, considered unintelligent, barely worth more than slaves. Many women followed Jesus because they knew they were lost without Him. They felt His love and care. Because they were deemed insignificant, they were able to minister to Jesus, follow Him after His arrest and openly grieve at the cross without being arrested or abused. Jesus’ love and compassion, explains why so many were grieving and lamenting as Christ carried His cross to His death (Luke 23:26-29). One does not have to be a woman to see their need for Jesus and His forgiveness. It takes humility. Rather than feeling superior because of race, gender or position in the community, the one who understands his or her own weakness and inferiority is most likely to embrace Jesus Christ. Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

## Notes