

**Date:** April 7, 2026

**John Section:** John 19:1-42

**Key Text:** John 19:30

**Main Idea:** Jesus' death means our life!

**Genre:** Theological Narrative

**Author:** John

**Audience:** Primarily second-generation believers, Jews, and Gentiles, needing encouragement and clarity about Jesus' identity.

**Setting:** Likely written from Ephesus, AD 85-95, in a context of synagogue opposition and emerging false teachings.

**Quote of the Week:** "I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need." **Charles Spurgeon**




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## **John Preview:**

### **Highlight:**

The Gospel of John is a unique New Testament account of Jesus' life, written by the Apostle John, the beloved disciple. John's Gospel is not merely a biography but a theological portrait, revealing Jesus as the eternal Son of God who became flesh to bring life and light to the world. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John emphasizes signs and discourses that unveil Jesus' divine identity and mission. From the opening words—"In the beginning was the Word"—to the climactic resurrection appearances, John presents Jesus as the one in whom God's glory is revealed, calling all to believe in Him for eternal life. This Gospel is rich with imagery (light, life, bread, water, shepherd, vine) and repeatedly centers on the theme of belief.

### **Focus of John:**

- **Purpose of John:**
    - John tells us his purpose plainly: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31).
  - **Themes in John:**
    - Jesus is the Word made flesh
    - Jesus reveals God's glory
    - Eternal life is found in Him alone
    - Belief is the way to life
    - Life flows only from union with Christ
  - **Our Response to this Truth:**
    - Believe in Him – Abide in Him – Live by His Word – Trust in His promises – Love as He loved
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## John 19:1-27 Jesus on the Cross - Ben

- As we step into John 19, we are entering the climax of the Gospel of John. Everything John has been building toward now converges at the cross.
  - Last week we looked at Jesus' betrayal, rejection, and denial. One thing remains unmistakably clear: Jesus is not a victim of circumstance or bad luck, He is the sovereign Son willingly following the plan of the Father.
  - This is one of the core themes we will see again this week as we dive into Christ's crucifixion.
  - Reminder of the scene and some core ideas from John 18:
    - Jesus has already been declared innocent multiple times, yet the world still rejects Him.
    - Pilate is torn, the Jewish leaders are enraged, and the disciples are scattered.
    - The light of the world is being handed over to darkness, yet the darkness cannot and does not overcome Him.
    - Every detail of Jesus' story is fulfilling Scripture. The cross is not an accident, it is the plan of God unfolding with precision. Christ went to death willingly, He suffered death not by force, but as a willing sacrifice.
- John 19 opens with Jesus already in the hands of the Roman authorities. The soldiers twist together a crown of thorns to put on His head and dress Him in a purple robe.
  - Pilate is the one giving the orders for Jesus to be flogged. Pilate is conflicted about what to do. He does not want to condemn an innocent man, but he also wants to appease the Jews. He did not like the Jews, but he was also afraid of them because they controlled the authority that he had.
  - Pilate repeatedly states that he finds no guilt in Jesus. He is aiming to satisfy the crowd without taking the blame for condemning an innocent man. He wants a middle ground that does not exist, and resorts to a physically brutal punishment instead, hoping the Jews will be satisfied with a lesser punishment that does not result in Jesus' death.
    - The hesitation, fear, and contradictions of Pilate demonstrate just how much Pilate is trying to avoid condemning Jesus, yet every attempt fails. Why is this?
      - Because Christ was appointed to die. In order to fully bear the weight of sin that we deserve, He needed to die.
- **Why couldn't God just forgive sin without the cross? What would that say about His character?**

- In verse 5, we see Pilate declaring, “Behold the man!” On the surface, Pilate means something as simple as, “Look at Him” or “See how broken He is.”
  - But there is a much deeper meaning to this as well. Jesus stands there as the only truly innocent man who was perfectly obedient. He is being displayed as the perfect man, even if the audience is unaware.
  - This also acts as a sort of invitation to the crowd. Behold the man, who do you say He is? Will the audience finally recognize that He is the Son of God? Of course not.
    - Pilate thinks he is presenting a beaten, defeated prisoner. In reality, he is presenting the only perfect man to ever live, the one who came to stand in our place.
- Pilate delivers Jesus to be crucified. He is taken to be crucified along with two others.
  - So far, we’ve been talking about the cross as it relates to God’s plan, His justice, and the fulfillment of Scripture. All of that is true and incredibly important. But we also need to remember that this is something that God did *for each of us*.
  - We have a personal relationship with the Father. We are known and loved by the good shepherd.
  - When it is said that Jesus “bore the weight of sin,” that is not abstract. The sin He carried was ours, the punishment He took was ours, and the death He died was the death we deserved.
    - We see this commonly referenced in Isaiah 53:5...
      - 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.
    - We can look at the death of Christ as something distant, something that happened long ago, to someone else, for people of the time. But it isn’t just “sin” that put Jesus on the cross, it is *our* sin.
    - This is also seen in the song How Deep the Father’s Love for Us:
      - *It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.*
      - It was not Roman or Jewish leaders who put Jesus on the cross, nor was it political pressure; it was my/our sin.
        - Yet, while we were sinners, hating Him and fallen in our sin, He still died for us.
- **When we read about and understand the death of Jesus for our sins, what should that cause us to feel?**

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### John 19:28-42 Death and Burial of Jesus - Noble

- Our very familiar but powerful story then continues with Jesus still hanging on the cross. The text tells us that Jesus knew that all was finished - meaning that all the pain and suffering of His work of suffering for His people was about to be over.
  - He then goes on to say that He thirsts, which would be fulfilling Scripture. Both Jesus' intense thirst and the sour wine were done to fulfill Scripture. We see these in Psalm 69:21:
    - **21** They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst, they gave me sour wine to drink.
    - Jesus had rejected the wine earlier in the afternoon that might have reduced the pain for Him (Matt. 27:34), and now He accepts a sip of the non-anesthetic wine to prepare for His final shout of victory in verse 30, "It is finished."
  - With this glorious proclamation also came some of the darkest times for those watching. His disciples and loved ones, those who had believed in Him, and those who had just seen His ministry from afar, now had just seen what they thought was defeat.
    - They had no idea that "it is finished" would be one of the most joyful and life-giving phrases ever to be said.
  - **In verse 30, Jesus says that "it is finished." What does that mean? Why does something so dark bring us joy?**
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- It is also worth noting that Jesus gave up His spirit; we see this in verse 30 as well. It shows us that Jesus went to the cross willingly. No one forced Him to do it. This was not cosmic child abuse (as some have said). This was a loving Savior, fully understanding the weight and the need that His people had and dying for them to demonstrate His love for us.
    - Psalms 31:5 "Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God."
    - And the love and care of Jesus have been on display for us all throughout the book of John, and this is where the story meets its climax. We have seen that in John 3:16 that God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus. This has been the heartbeat of the entire book.

- Break off into groups and take a look at all of these “I am” statements. Discuss with your group how you think that the “I am” statements relate to the love of Jesus for us shown through His death.

“I am” Statement:

Connection:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Bread of Life</b></li> <li>● John 6:35 “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’”</li> </ul>	Bread →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Light of the World</b></li> <li>● John 8:12 “Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”</li> </ul>	Light →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Door</b></li> <li>● John 10:9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.”</li> </ul>	Door →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Good Shepherd</b></li> <li>● John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”</li> </ul>	Good Shepherd →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Resurrection and the Life</b></li> <li>● John 11:25 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.’”</li> </ul>	Resurrection →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life</b></li> <li>● John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”</li> </ul>	Way/Truth/Life →
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I Am the True Vine</b></li> <li>● John 15:1 (ESV) “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”</li> </ul>	Vine →

**Vv. 31-42**

- In these next few verses, we see that the body of Jesus is removed from the cross because the Jewish leaders did not want the body to be left on the cross.
  - This was to be in accordance with the Old Testament laws found in Deuteronomy 21:22-23
    - **22** “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, **23** his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.
  - And so they ask that the legs of the men on the cross be broken, so that they would die faster (they would no longer be able to lift themselves up to breathe anymore), and because they would die sooner, they would be able to take them off the cross sooner.
  - But when they went to Jesus, they saw He was already dead, so they did not need to break His legs. This was also to fulfill more of the scripture found in Psalm 34:20.
    - **20** He keeps all His bones; not one of them is broken.
  - We then see that they pierce Jesus' side, and out from it flows water and blood. Some people have thought this to mean that it signifies the blood for atonement of sins, and the water as the cleansing of new life.
    - But regardless of what it meant, we see that this shows us that Jesus truly was dead and that all life was lost from Him.
- John also thinks it necessary to tell us that this was written by an eyewitness, showing that these events that happened were recorded by those who were actually there and are a real part of History.
  - And this is writing to give more credibility to what has just been written about, which goes along with the overall theme of John, which is causing the reader to believe.
- In these final verses, we see how the death of Jesus Christ begins to draw hidden followers into the light. Joseph of Arimathea, who had previously been a secret disciple out of fear, now steps forward boldly to ask Pontius Pilate for Jesus' body.
  - Along with him comes Nicodemus, the same man who once came to Jesus by night. Seeing the crucified Savior appears to have confirmed what their hearts had begun to believe, that Jesus truly was the promised Messiah. In reverence and devotion, they prepare His body for burial, placing Him in a new tomb.
  - This quiet and solemn scene brings the account of the crucifixion in the Gospel of John to a close, but it also prepares us for what is to come. The tomb is sealed, the body is laid to rest, and the stage is set for the next chapter, where we see that the sorrow of death will give way to the astonishing reality of the resurrection.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **American Gospel Night - April 12th at WBC**
- **Worship Night End of Year - April 21st at WBC**

**Other Helpful Resources:**

- He Must Increase Podcast by Connor Shady & Adam Tredeau & Josiah King (Official Podcast of 3:30!)
- Waukesha Bible Church John 19 Sermons on YouTube

### Other Reminders:

- Get involved with a church - **Specifically WBC!**
  - **Connor and Adam are teaching: 9 AM Class on the Book of Romans at WBC prior to service.**
  - WBC service is at 10:00 AM every Sunday!
  - Check out our Website: [Threethirtyministry.com](http://Threethirtyministry.com)
- Join the 3:30 GroupMe or WhatsApp chat to stay up to date on everything 3:30 Ministry.
- Also check us out on Instagram: @three.thirty.ministries and @three.thirty.mens.ministry

### The Gospel: *We Can't, God Can, Jesus Did!*

- **Sin.** None of us can escape it. Because of it, we are spiritually dead and in need of life. Our debt before God is insurmountable. It is the biggest problem any of us has, since there is nothing we can do ourselves to pay that debt. God's standard is perfection, so no amount of good works or religious activities is enough.
  - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.  
(Ephesians 2:1-3)
- **But God...** These two words are some of the most powerful words in the Bible. God is merciful and loving. He did what we could never do in and of ourselves. He saved us by grace alone and gave us new life in Christ.
  - 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.  
(Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Jesus saves.** He is God's gift to us. He paid our debt before the Father. And through his death and resurrection, we are raised to eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is only through Christ that we live a life pleasing to God.
  - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)