

Questioning Jesus (part 2) (John 19:1-16)

Acts of injustice and cruelty give way to an announcement about Jesus. Fear of what others will say or do give way to a judgment about Jesus. John 19:1-16 is loaded with cruelty, compromise and betrayal – all of it directed at Jesus and all of it revealing how broken we are. In a beautiful twist of irony, we discover, that is exactly *why* Jesus is there.

1. Humanity's cruelty (John 19:1-6)

How many times have we shaken our heads at the injustices we read about in the headlines and think, "*What's wrong with humanity?*" We are bent and broken. Rom 3:10-18; 21-26

V6 For a third time Pilate announces he finds NO guilt in Jesus.

Acts of injustice and cruelty give way to an announcement about Jesus: "*Behold, the man!*" = Literally, "*Here's the man!*" John 1:14; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45

2. Pilate's compromise (John 19:7-13)

V9 the question "*Where are you from?*" is met with silence. Isaiah 53:6-7, 10

Jesus isn't being difficult. He is entrusting himself to the Father. 1 Peter 2:22-23

V11 "*You would have NO authority (power) over me AT ALL unless it had been given you from above.*"

In other words, "*This whole thing is the sovereign work of God...*" Acts 2:23

V12 "*If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend....*"

This was Pilate's "consider the cost" moment. He was at a crossroads. Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-27

3. Jesus' true identity ("*Behold your King!*") (John 19:14-16)

This entire account (VV1-16), start to finish, has presented Jesus to us as King.

Remember John 1:29? "*Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*"! NOW "*Behold your King!*" = Jesus is the *true* Passover lamb; Jesus is the *true* King.

The religious leaders "*throw themselves into the arms*" of the Roman empire.

times have we run into the arms of what we think will satisfy, only to betray what we know is right?

The depths of humanity's brokenness is on bold display BUT so are the depths of God's love.

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read John 19:1-16. How do Pilate and the soldiers mock Jesus? (VV2-3)
2. How many times have we shaken our heads at the headlines and think, "*What's wrong with humanity?*" What does this passage reveal about humanity? Also consider Romans 3:10-18.
3. Read John 19:9-11. What do we learn about Jesus from his silence? Consider Isaiah 53:6-7, 10; 1 Peter 2:22-23. What do we learn from his answer? Acts 2:23
4. The chief priests realize Pilate wants to let Jesus. What do they say and why is it effective? (V12)
5. Compromise happens when the fear of what others think of us overrides our convictions. Can you share a time when you allowed the fear of what others think of you determine what you should do? What were you afraid of? What has been helpful in your fight against compromise since?
6. This was Pilate's "*consider the cost*" moment. Every follower of Jesus must consider the cost. Read Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-27. In what ways has following Jesus been costly for you?
7. The first thing out of Pilate's mouth (from his judgment seat) was: "*Behold your King!*" = Literally, "*Here is your King!*" Whether out of disdain or not, Jesus is put forward as "king" throughout. How do the religious leaders respond? Why is their response so tragic? How is this a warning to us?
8. How does the fact that Jesus entered our sufferings; shared them with us help us face whatever comes our way?

This scene has placed our brokenness (sin) AND Jesus' love on bold display. Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider the tragedy of human sin. Confess to the Lord your part, your guilt. Then rejoice and give thanks to him that in and through this tragedy he was at work to reconcile and redeem us.