

The Essentials: The Gospel of John

Session 9: John 19: 16-37

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 19: 16-37 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. Read vv. 19-22. Why would Pilate write that Jesus was the king of the Jews? Is it ironic or truthful?
2. Our video describes how everything that occurs in to Jesus in this passage is intentional. Describe why you think it is significant that Jesus intends for everything here to happen the way that it does.
3. In the video, Colin says there is a sense of dignity about the crucifixion in John's account. Why is Jesus' crucifixion known as the hour of his glory? Considering what is written over his head, why is it his enthronement?
4. Read vv. 25-27. What is the metaphorical significance of this new "family" or household that is established at the foot of the cross?
5. Colin and Malone describe the way Jesus' statement, "it is finished", doesn't mean he surrenders or gives up. Rather, it means he has completed what he set out to do. What do you think is completed in Jesus' death on the cross?
6. V. 35 makes clear that the blood and water flowing from his side is founded on actual eyewitness testimony. Why would John want to emphasize the authenticity of this event? Why does he want people to know that Jesus was actually dead?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 19: 16-37

So they took Jesus,¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’”²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

“They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

So the soldiers did these things,²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.”³⁷ And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”