



In the Flesh – John 18-19

March 24 | Weekly Devotionals

Section 1: Introduction

Today, we're entering John 18-19 and talking about Jesus' arrest, betrayal, and crucifixion.

In John 18-19, the narrative unfolds with Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane and the subsequent trials before the Jewish leaders and Roman authorities. Pilate, the Roman governor, struggles with the decision to crucify Jesus despite finding no guilt in him. The crowd, influenced by religious leaders, demands Barabbas's release instead of Jesus. Pilate ultimately yields to the pressure and orders Jesus' crucifixion. The crucifixion, accompanied by the poignant moments such as Jesus entrusting his mother to John and uttering the words "It is finished," leads to his death. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus then bury Jesus in a tomb.

Read all of John 18-19. And note any words or phrases that resonate with you along the way.

Section 2: Spend time in your passage

Engage with John 18-19 prayerfully.

- What are the key reasons the Jewish leaders sought to have Jesus crucified?

- How does Pilate's role in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus highlight political and religious tensions? What specifically does Jesus say about his own kingdom? And how does that relate to how Pilate would think about kingdoms?

- How do the details of Jesus' crucifixion and death, as described in John 18-19, align with and fulfill specific Old Testament prophecies?

Look up and read Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, and Zechariah 12:10. How do the events surrounding Jesus' trial, crucifixion, and the piercing of his side connect with these prophetic Scriptures?

In what ways do these prophecies provide a deeper understanding of the purpose and significance of Jesus' sacrificial death, and how might they strengthen your conviction regarding Jesus as the Messiah?

Section 3: Reflection questions

- Think about how Jesus was substituted for Barabbas. Consider that Jesus received the punishment that Barabbas deserved. In what way is sinful humanity like Barabbas? In what ways are *you* like Barabbas? Take a moment to soberly reflect in the space below the areas of your life where you have sinned recently and imagine Jesus taking all those things and offering forgiveness to you.

- How does the crucifixion narrative deepen your understanding of Jesus' sacrificial love and the concept of salvation through his death?

- Considering Jesus' words "It is finished." How does this impact your perception of redemption and the completeness of God's plan for your salvation?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using John 18-19 and your reflections, write out a prayer in response to your time in God's Word today.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get John 18-19 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out John 19:16-19 in your journal.
2. Memorize John 19:16-19 using various techniques, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm. Take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.