

The Gospel of John

A True Story/My Story

(week 10)

1. Begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you clarity as you read.
2. Then with pen in hand, begin to mark it up and write thoughts and questions in the margin.
3. After spending time reading, underlining, circling, and making notes, answer the questions for each passage.

For days 1-4, use the following questions to guide your time in the Word:

Before you read and meditate upon each passage, ask God to help you to know Jesus.

- A. *What does this teach me about Jesus (His message, His values, what He is passionate about)?*
- B. *How does this knowledge challenge, change, and/or inspire me (in my beliefs, in my actions)? How is this knowledge affecting my story?*
- C. *Who is God calling me to share this knowledge with today (in word and/or deed)?*

DAY 1

John 18:1-27 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Is Arrested

18 When Jesus had finished praying, he left with his disciples. They crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden. Jesus and his disciples went into it.

2 Judas knew the place. He was going to hand Jesus over to his enemies. Jesus had often met in that place with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden. He was guiding a group of soldiers and some officials. The chief priests and the Pharisees had sent them. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4 Jesus knew everything that was going to happen to him. So he went out and asked them, "Who do you want?"

5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. Judas, who was going to hand Jesus over, was standing there with them. 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they moved back. Then they fell to the ground.

7 He asked them again, "Who do you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

8 Jesus answered, "I told you I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9 This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken would come true. He had said, "I have not lost anyone God has given me." (John 6:39)

10 Simon Peter had a sword and pulled it out. He struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shouldn't I drink the cup of suffering the Father has given me?"

12 Then the group of soldiers, their commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They tied him up 13 and brought him first to Annas. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. 14 Caiaphas had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Peter Says He Is Not Jesus' Disciple

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. The high priest knew the other disciple. So that

disciple went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. 16 But Peter had to wait outside by the door. The other disciple came back. He was the one the high priest knew. He spoke to the servant woman who was on duty there. Then he brought Peter in.

17 She asked Peter, "You aren't one of Jesus' disciples too, are you?"

"I am not," he replied.

18 It was cold. The slaves and officials stood around a fire. They had made it to keep warm. Peter was also standing with them. He was warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus. He asked him about his disciples and his teaching.

20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I didn't say anything in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask the people who heard me. They certainly know what I said."

22 When Jesus said that, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this any way to answer the high priest?" he asked.

23 "Have I said something wrong?" Jesus replied. "If I have, then tell everyone what it was. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?" 24 Annas sent him, tied up, to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Peter Again Says He Is Not Jesus' Disciple

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself by the fire. So they asked him, "You aren't one of Jesus' disciples too, are you?"

He said, "I am not."

26 One of the high priest's slaves was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off. He said to Peter, "Didn't I see you with Jesus in the garden?" 27 Again Peter said no. At that exact moment a rooster began to crow.

Day 2

John 18:28-40 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Is Brought to Pilate

28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning. The Jewish leaders did not want to be made "unclean." They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal. So they did not enter the palace. 29 Pilate came out to them. He asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

30 "He has committed crimes," they replied. "If he hadn't, we would not have handed him over to you."

31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves. Judge him by your own law."

"But we don't have the right to put anyone to death," they complained. 32 This happened so that what Jesus said about how he was going to die would come true.

33 Then Pilate went back inside the palace. He ordered Jesus to be brought to him. Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34 "Is that your own idea?" Jesus asked. "Or did others talk to you about me?"

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not from this world. If it were, those who serve me would fight. They would try to keep the Jewish leaders from arresting me. My kingdom is from another place."

37 "So you are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, that's the reason I was born. I was born and came into the world to be a witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me."

38 "What is truth?" Pilate replied. Then Pilate went out again to the Jews gathered there. He said, "I find no basis for any charge against him. 39 But you have a practice at Passover time. At that time, you ask me to set one prisoner free for you. Do you want me to set 'the king of the Jews' free?"

40 They shouted back, "No! Not him! Give us Barabbas!" Barabbas had taken part in an armed struggle against the country's rulers.

Days 3

John 19:1-16 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Is Sentenced to Be Crucified

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. 2 The soldiers twisted thorns together to make a crown. They put it on Jesus' head. Then they put a purple robe on him. 3 They went up to him again and again. They kept saying, "We honor you, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

4 Once more Pilate came out. He said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing Jesus out to you. I want to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." 5 Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Then Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. I myself find no basis for a charge against him."

7 The Jewish leaders replied, "We have a law. That law says he must die. He claimed to be the Son of God."

8 When Pilate heard that, he was even more afraid. 9 He went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus. But Jesus did not answer him. 10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you understand? I have the power to set you free or to nail you to a cross."

11 Jesus answered, "You were given power from heaven. If you weren't, you would have no power over me. So the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend! Anyone who claims to be a king is against Caesar!"

13 When Pilate heard that, he brought Jesus out. Pilate sat down on the judge's seat. It was at a place called the Stone Walkway. In the Aramaic language it was called Gabbatha. 14 It was about noon on Preparation Day in Passover Week.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Should I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

16 Finally, Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be nailed to a cross.

Jesus Is Nailed to a Cross

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

Day 4

John 19:17-27 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

17 He had to carry his own cross. He went out to a place called the Skull. In the Aramaic language it was called Golgotha. 18 There they nailed Jesus to the cross. Two other men were crucified with him. One was on each side of him. Jesus was in the middle.

19 Pilate had a notice prepared. It was fastened to the cross. It read,

jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews.

20 Many of the Jews read the sign. That's because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. And the sign was written in the Aramaic, Latin and Greek languages. 21 The chief priests of the Jews argued with Pilate. They said, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews.' Write that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

22 Pilate answered, "I have written what I have written."

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes. They divided them into four parts. Each soldier got one part. All that was left was Jesus' long, inner robe. It did not have any seams. It was made out of one piece of cloth from top to bottom.

24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's cast lots to see who will get it."

This happened so that Scripture would come true. It says,

"They divided up my clothes among them.

They cast lots for what I was wearing." (Psalm 22:18)

So that is what the soldiers did.

25 Jesus' mother stood near his cross. So did his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 Jesus saw his mother there. He also saw the disciple he loved standing nearby. Jesus said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son." 27 He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

Day 5

John 19:28-42 New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

Jesus Dies

28 Later, Jesus knew that everything had now been finished. He also knew that what Scripture said must come true. So he said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there. So they soaked a sponge in it. They put the sponge on the stem of a hyssop plant. Then they lifted it up to Jesus' lips. 30 After Jesus drank he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and died.

31 It was Preparation Day. The next day would be a special Sabbath day. The Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath day. So they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. 32 The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus. Then they broke the legs of the other man. 33 But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead. So they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side. Right away, blood and water flowed out. 35 The man who saw it has been a witness about it. And what he has said is true. He knows that he tells the truth. He is a witness so that you also may believe. 36 These things happened in order that Scripture would come true. It says, "Not one of his bones will be broken." (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20) 37 Scripture also says, "They will look to the one they have pierced." (Zechariah 12:10)

Jesus Is Buried

38 Later Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph was from the town of Arimathea. He was a follower of Jesus. But he followed Jesus secretly because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. After Pilate gave him permission, Joseph came and took the body away. 39 Nicodemus went with Joseph. He was the man who had earlier visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought some mixed spices that weighed about 75 pounds. 40 The two men took Jesus' body. They wrapped it in strips of linen cloth, along with the spices. That was the way the Jews buried people. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden. A new tomb was there. No one had ever been put in it before. 42 That day was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was nearby. So they placed Jesus there.

TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE DISCIPLES AND FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST WERE FEELING:

When was a time in your life that you put all your hope in something or someone and then that thing or person was taken away from you? How did this make you feel?

TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT WERE FEELING:

What does/would it feel like to lose a child?

What would it feel like to know the glorious end of the story, but to also know that those you love dearly had to go through the next 3 days of confusion, pain and fear without knowing that glorious ending yet?

All Scripture from the New International Reader's Version