



# The Gospel of John: Behold the Man

John 18:39 – 19:5

Pastor Brad Wood

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In this week's study of John 18:39-19:5, we spend time looking into the profound moment when Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd, saying 'Behold the Man.'

This pivotal scene invites us to contemplate the depths of Christ's sacrificial love and the true nature of His kingship. As we witness Jesus enduring mockery, scourging and humiliation, we're challenged to see beyond the surface and recognize the divine purpose unfolding. The stark contrast between Jesus' quiet dignity and the crowd's rejection serves as a mirror for our own hearts. Are we—like Pilate—indifferent to the truth standing before us? Or do we recognize the King of Kings, even in His moment of apparent defeat? Or when we can't see Him reigning over our lives in the moment?

This passage urges us to examine our own response to Christ's sacrifice and consider how we can embody His selfless love in our daily lives.

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# 5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

## Day 1: Beholding the Man

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*Reading: John 19:1-5*

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Devotional: Today, we focus on Pilate's words: "Behold the Man!" As we read about Jesus standing before the crowd, beaten and mocked, let's truly behold Him. What do we see? We see love incarnate, willing to suffer for our sake. We see strength under control, as Jesus submits to the Father's will despite His power to call all of heaven to bring it to an end. Today, take time to really look at Jesus. See His love, His sacrifice, His humility. How does this change your perspective on your own struggles? How can you better reflect Christ's love and humility in your daily life?

## Day 2: The Perfect Sacrifice

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*Reading: Isaiah 53:4-6*

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Devotional: Isaiah's prophecy vividly describes the suffering of Jesus, the perfect sacrifice for our sins. As you read, reflect on the depth of God's love that would cause Him to lay our iniquities on His own Son. Jesus, though innocent, bore our guilt and shame. This is the essence of salvation - not that we earned it, but that it was freely given at great cost. Today, meditate on what it means to be forgiven and cleansed. How does this amazing grace impact your life? How can you express gratitude for this incredible gift?

## Day 3: Love as a Command

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*Reading: John 15:12-17*

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Devotional: Jesus gives us a new commandment - to love one another as He has loved us. This is no small task...for *His* love led *Him* to the cross. Notice how Jesus elevates us from servants to friends, sharing with us all He has heard from the Father. This intimate relationship is the foundation for our love for others. Today, consider your relationships. Are you loving others sacrificially, as Jesus loved you? Ask God to fill you with His love, that it might overflow to those around you, even those who are difficult to love.

## Day 4: Faith, Hope, and Love

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*Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-13*

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Devotional: Paul's beautiful description of love reminds us that of faith, hope, and love, the greatest is love. Why? Because God is love, and love will endure for eternity. As you read, reflect on how your life measures up to this description of love. Are you patient and kind? Do you keep no record of wrongs? Remember, we love because He first loved us. Today, ask God to develop these qualities of love in your life. How can you practically demonstrate this kind of love to someone today?

## Day 5: Strength in Suffering

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*Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16*

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Devotional: Our final reading reminds us that Jesus is our sympathetic high priest, able to empathize with our weaknesses because He faced all the same temptations we do, yet without sin. In our moments of suffering and trial, we can approach God's throne with confidence, knowing Jesus understands our pain. He chose to suffer so that He could relate to us fully. Today, bring your struggles before God with boldness. Trust in His compassion and grace. How does knowing that Jesus understands your pain change your approach to difficulties? How can you extend this same empathy to others who are suffering?

# Small Group Guide: Beholding the Man

## Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus endured extreme physical and emotional suffering out of love for humanity.
2. Pilate's statement, "Behold the Man," invites us to deeply consider who Jesus is and what He did for us.
3. Jesus' sacrifice demonstrates perfect love, compassion, forgiveness and humility.
4. As Christians we are commanded to love others as Christ loved us.
5. True Christian love involves character traits like lowliness, gentleness, long-suffering and maintaining unity.

## Discussion Questions:

- How does the concept of 'Beholding the Man' as presented in this sermon challenge our typical view of Jesus, and what implications does it have for our daily lives?
- In what ways does Pilate's indifference and compromise parallel our own attitudes towards Jesus in modern times?
- How does the sermon's description of Jesus' scourging and suffering impact your understanding of His love and sacrifice?
- What does it mean to 'walk worthy of the calling' as described in Ephesians 4, and how can we practically apply this in our relationships?
- How does the sermon's exploration of love as a command, rather than a suggestion, challenge your current approach to loving others?

- In what ways does the contrast between Barabbas and Jesus highlight the nature of God's grace and our own need for redemption?
- How does the concept of 'strength under control' as a definition of meekness challenge our cultural understanding of power and humility?
- What does it mean to have the 'mind of Christ' as mentioned in Philippians 2, and how can we cultivate this mindset in our daily lives?
- How does the sermon's discussion of longsuffering and forgiveness challenge your current approach to dealing with those who have wronged you?
- In what ways does the thief on the cross's interaction with Jesus demonstrate the nature of God's grace, and how does this impact our understanding of salvation?

## Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer:** Identify one person in your life who is difficult to love. Commit to praying for them daily and looking for ways to show them Christ-like love.
2. **Reflection:** This week, spend time each day meditating on a different aspect of Christ's character mentioned in the sermon. Journal your reflections.
3. **Scripture Study:** Memorize Philippians 2:5-8 as a reminder of Christ's humility and sacrificial love. And look for ways to apply it to your life.
4. **Accountability:** Reflect on areas where you struggle with unity in the body of Christ. Take one concrete step towards reconciliation or building bridges.
5. **Thankfulness:** Before reacting in difficult situations this week, pause and ask yourself, "How would Jesus respond in love here?", considering with a thankful heart the ways He has responded to YOU in love repeatedly.
6. **Service:** Practice "lowliness" by intentionally putting others' needs or preferences before your own in at least one situation each day.

## Further Discussion Questions:

- What struck you most about the description of Jesus' suffering? How does it impact your view of His love for you?
- Pilate said, "Behold the Man." What do you see when you look at Jesus in that moment? Share your reflections.
- Pastor Brad mentioned several attributes we see in Christ (love, sacrifice, compassion, etc.). Which of these stands out to you personally and why?
- How does understanding Jesus' sacrifice challenge or change the way you view your own struggles and sufferings?
- Pastor Brad emphasized that love is not optional for Christians. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to love as Christ loved?
- Discuss the character traits mentioned (lowliness, gentleness, long-suffering). Which do you find most difficult to embody? How can we grow in these areas?
- How can we practically "Behold the Man" in our daily lives? What might that look like?

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