



The Gospel of John: Behold the Man

John 19:17-37 – Part 3

Pastor Brad Wood

In this week's study, we read through John 19:17-37 as we continued to dwell upon the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, uncovering the profound spiritual truths that lie at the heart of our faith.

As we examine the details John provides—from the place of the skull to the piercing of Jesus' side—we're reminded of the immense love and sacrifice that forms the foundation of our relationship with God. The fulfillment of numerous prophecies in these moments serves to strengthen our faith, showing us that every aspect of Christ's death was part of God's perfect plan. We're challenged to consider what it truly means to 'take up our cross daily' and follow Jesus. This isn't just about wearing a cross as jewelry, but about dying to ourselves each day so that Christ may live in us.

As we reflect on Jesus' words 'It is finished,' we're invited to embrace the completeness of His work on the cross and live in the freedom and grace it provides.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

Day 1: The Love of God Displayed at the Cross

Reading: John 19:17-37

Devotional: As we read about Jesus' crucifixion, we're confronted with the ultimate display of God's love. Despite His immense suffering, Jesus thought of others: providing for His mother and offering forgiveness to those crucifying Him. Reflect on the depth of God's love for you personally. How does knowing you are this deeply loved change how you view yourself and others? Take time to consider those in your life; do you have someone that needs you to extend that same Christ-like love, even if it comes at a personal cost.

Day 2: Faith in the Finished Work of Christ

Reading: Galatians 2:20-21; Romans 6:1-11

Devotional: Jesus' cry "It is finished" marks the completion of His redemptive work. Our salvation is secured not by our efforts, but by faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. Consider areas where you might be trying to earn God's favor rather than resting in His grace. Remember: your salvation is because of Him, not because of you. Pause to reflect on the reality that you have been "crucified with Christ" and now live by faith in Him. What does this mean to you? Ask God to deepen your trust in His completed work of salvation and embrace that with joyful gratitude.

Day 3: The Victory of Jesus

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28

Devotional: Through His death on the cross, Jesus gained the greatest victory on our behalf: He defeated sin, death and the grave. When He cried, “Tetelestai!” Christ proclaimed that He had completed all that was necessary to buy us back—redeem us—from control of sin. He gave us the hope and freedom of a new life! Where do you need to know His hope and freedom? Spend time thanking God for all the reasons that you know you have for this hope and freedom; then note how you see your hope grow as you praise Him.

Day 4: God’s Presence in Our Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-39

Devotional: Jesus experienced the depths of human suffering on the cross yet was never outside the love of the Father. Nothing could separate Him...and nothing can separate us. When we suffer, we can be assured of God's loving presence with us. Reflect on a time when you experienced God's comfort in the midst of pain. How can you extend that comfort to others who are hurting? Ask God to make you more aware of His presence, especially in difficult times.

Day 5: Taking up our Cross Daily

Reading: Luke 9:23-26; Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Following Jesus means daily dying to self and living for Him. This isn't a one-time decision, but a continual surrender. What aspects of your life are you struggling to surrender to Christ? What are some practical ways you can "take up your cross" in your current circumstances? Are there things you need to walk away from? Are there things you need to do? Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to die to self and live fully for Christ today. Commit to making this a daily practice of surrendering to God's will.

Small Group Guide: The King on the Cross

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' crucifixion fulfilled numerous Old Testament prophecies.
2. Even in His suffering, Jesus showed care and concern for others (e.g., His mother).
3. Christ's declaration "It is finished" signifies the completion of God's redemptive plan.
4. Believers are called to "take up their cross daily" and follow Jesus.
5. The cross reminds us of the cost of our salvation and the need to die to self.

Discussion Questions:

- How does reflecting on the physical and emotional anguish Jesus endured on the cross impact your understanding of His sacrifice for humanity?
- In what ways can we, as modern Christians, truly comprehend and internalize the concept of 'taking up our cross daily' as Jesus commanded?
- How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the crucifixion account strengthen or challenge your faith?
- What can we learn from Jesus' concern for His mother Mary even while suffering on the cross, and how should this impact our own relationships and priorities?
- How does the concept of being 'crucified with Christ' (as mentioned by Paul) apply to our daily lives and spiritual growth?
- In what ways might our modern comforts and distance from the brutal reality of crucifixion affect our appreciation of Christ's sacrifice?

- How can we balance the triumphant cry of 'It is finished' with the ongoing call to die to ourselves daily?
- What does it mean for us today to 'know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified' as Paul resolved?
- How might focusing on the cross of Christ change our approach to evangelism and sharing our faith with others?
- In what ways can we cultivate a deeper appreciation for God's grace in light of the crucifixion narrative?

Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer:** Reflect on areas of your life where you might be resisting "dying to self." Pray for God's help in surrendering these areas.
2. **Reflection:** Write down specific ways Christ's sacrifice on the cross has impacted your life.
3. **Scripture Study:** Spend time reading and reflecting on Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, noting the prophetic connections to Christ's crucifixion.
4. **Accountability:** Each day this week, consciously choose one way to "deny yourself" and follow Jesus more closely.
5. **Thankfulness:** Reflect on the wonder of the cross and thank our Lord that He is willing to love you that much.
6. **Service:** Practice explaining the significance of the cross to a friend or family member who may not understand its importance.

Further Discussion Questions:

- Pastor Brad mentioned eight distinct things John points out about the crucifixion. Which of these stood out to you most and why?
- How does understanding the historical and prophetic context of the crucifixion strengthen your faith?
- Discuss Jesus' care for His mother even while on the cross. How does this demonstrate His character?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He cried out "It is finished"? How does this impact our understanding of salvation?
- The sermon emphasizes the importance of "knowing nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified." How can we maintain this focus in our daily lives?
- Discuss the concept of "taking up our cross daily." What does this look like in practical terms?
- How does the cross challenge our worldly desires and ambitions?
- In what ways can we "die to ourselves" and live more fully for Christ?

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