



The Gospel of John: Behold the Man

John 19:6-16

Pastor Brad Wood

In this week's study of John 19:6-16, we continued to review the account of Jesus' trial before Pilate. And we were challenged to confront our own response to Christ as King.

The account in John 19 reveals the stark contrast between worldly power and divine authority. As we witness Pilate's struggle and the chief priests' manipulation, we're compelled to examine our own hearts. Do we truly behold Jesus as our King, or are we—like Pilate—trying to remain neutral?

The message urges us to consider how we might be holding onto the throne of our own hearts, refusing to fully submit to Christ's lordship. It's a sobering reminder that we can't simply admire Jesus from a distance: we must make a decision. Will we—like the crowd—reject Him, or will we humble ourselves and acknowledge His rightful place as King of our lives?

This teaching calls us to move beyond mere intellectual assent and into a transformative relationship with the One who humbled Himself for our sake.

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

Day 1: Beholding the King

Reading: John 19:1-16

Devotional: As we read about Jesus standing before Pilate, we're confronted with a profound truth: the King of kings allowed Himself to be judged by men. Pilate's words, "Behold the man!" and later "Behold your King!" invite us to truly see Jesus for who He is. Today, take time to "behold" Jesus. Look beyond the surface and see His love, humility and sacrifice. How does seeing Jesus as your King change your perspective on your daily life? Ask God to help you surrender areas where you're still trying to be the ruler of your own life.

Day 2: The Power of Humility

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: The Scripture reference refers to Jesus' incredible humility: the King of the all creation became a servant. As you read this passage, reflect on Christ's example of humility. In a world that often prizes self-promotion, how can you cultivate Christlike humility? Consider areas in your life where pride might be hindering your relationship with God or others. Pray for God to give you the strength to "have the same mindset as Christ Jesus" in your interactions today.

Day 3: Worthy is the Lamb

Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

Devotional: Today's passage gives us a glimpse of heavenly worship. The Lamb who was slain is declared worthy to open the scroll. This same Jesus who stood silent before Pilate is worshipped by all of creation. As you read, imagine yourself joining in this heavenly praise. What aspects of Jesus' character and actions make Him worthy of such adoration? Take time to write your own prayer of praise, focusing on specific reasons why Jesus is worthy of your worship and allegiance.

Day 4: No Neutral Ground

Reading: Matthew 12:30-37

Devotional: In this week's sermon, Pastor Brad emphasized that we cannot remain neutral about Jesus: we must make a decision. Jesus' words in this passage reinforce this truth. Reflect on areas of your life where you might be trying to stay "neutral" rather than fully committing to Christ. What fears or hesitations are holding you back? Ask God to give you courage to take a stand for Him, even in small ways, recognizing that our words and actions reveal the true state of our hearts.

Day 5: Relinquishing the Throne

Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: The challenge to "relinquish the throne of our hearts" to Jesus is a daily one. Paul urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. On a practical level, this is how we make Jesus the King of our lives. Today, consciously think of your life as an offering to God. What would it look like to let Him reign in your decisions, attitudes and actions? Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you identify areas that need transformation and the strength to yield those areas to God's control.

Small Group Guide: Behold Your King

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus willingly submitted Himself to the cross out of love...not as a victim.
2. The cross reveals the true nature of our hearts and forces us to make a decision about Jesus.
3. Jesus is the humble King who is worthy of our full devotion and surrender.

Discussion Questions:

- How does Pilate's struggle to remain neutral toward Jesus reflect our own attempts to avoid fully committing to Christ in our lives?
- In what ways might we—like the chief priests—allow our own pride or self-interest to blind us to recognizing Jesus as the true Messiah and King?
- How does the concept of Jesus as both the sacrificial Lamb and the Lion of Judah challenge our understanding of His kingship and power?
- What areas of our lives are we still reluctant to fully surrender to Jesus as King, and why do we hold back?
- How might our daily actions and decisions change if we truly beheld Jesus as our King in every moment?
- In what ways does the humility of Christ, as described in Philippians 2, challenge our worldly notions of leadership and power?
- How does the imagery in Revelation 5 of all creation worshipping Jesus impact our view of His sovereignty and our place in His kingdom?
- What does it mean in practical terms to ‘relinquish the throne of our heart’ to Jesus, and what might be the consequences of failing to do so?

- How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of Jesus' Kingship in our lives, even amidst the distractions and pressures of daily life?
- In what ways might our witness to others be transformed if we fully embraced and reflected the reality of Jesus as our King?

Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer:** Take time this week to prayerfully examine your heart. Are there areas where you're still trying to maintain control instead of fully surrendering to Jesus as King?
2. **Reflection:** Identify one specific way you can practice Christ-like humility in your relationships or responsibilities this week.
3. **Scripture Study:** Memorize Philippians 2:5-11 as a reminder of Christ's humility and sacrificial love. And look for ways to apply it to your life.
4. **Accountability:** Share your "behold" moment: Think about a time when you truly "beheld" Jesus for who He is. Share this experience with a friend or family member as a way to testify to His kingship.
5. **Thankfulness:** Spend time meditating on Revelation 5. Consider writing your own prayer or song of worship in response to the description of Jesus as the worthy Lamb.
6. **Service:** Each morning this week, consciously "abdicate" the throne of your heart to Jesus. Ask Him to rule your thoughts, decisions and actions for the day. Look for opportunities to serve other people as a willing Bondservant, reflecting "the mind of Christ".

Further Discussion Questions:

- Pastor Brad mentioned that "Pilate ascended to the judgment seat." How does this image of Pilate on the judgment seat contrast with Jesus' true authority? What does this teach us about earthly power versus heavenly power?
- Reflect on the statement: "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above." How does this perspective change the way we view current events or challenges in our lives?
- Pastor Brad highlighted how the cross strips away pretense and reveals our true selves. Can you share an experience where facing the reality of the cross exposed something in your own heart?
- Discuss the concept of Jesus as both the sacrificial Lamb and the Lion of Judah. How do these seemingly contrasting images help us understand His character and role as King?
- Pastor Brad asks, "Have you truly beheld Jesus as your King?" In essence, what does it mean to "behold" Jesus as King in our daily lives? What does that look like?
- Reflect on the description of Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11. How does Christ's example of humility challenge our own attitudes and behaviors?

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