

# John 19

4/14/10

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Have you ever thought about the fact that Christians spend a lot of time thinking about and talking about an instrument of torture? The cross was designed not just to kill someone, but to keep someone alive as long as possible, so that they could experience as much pain as possible before they died. If someone told you that once a year they went and meditated in front of an electric chair, you would probably think they were nuts! And yet, in a since that's all we're doing, unless there is more to Jesus' death, more to the suffering He had to endure.

In John 19 we see a familiar story, Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross. This is a story most of you have probably heard many times and in many different ways. Hopefully, in this lesson you will come to a new and greater understanding of why Christ had to suffer and die for us.

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## Thursday

Think of your most prized possession and write it down.

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Would you give it up if ...

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| ...it meant you could continue living?                    | Yes | No |
| ...it meant one starving kid in Africa could keep living? | Yes | No |
| ...someone asked you real nicely for it?                  | Yes | No |
| ...it would keep a handicapped kid from being picked on?  | Yes | No |
| ...it would help your team win the championship?          | Yes | No |
| ...I traded you a candy bar?                              | Yes | No |

What does it mean to sacrifice?

What have you ever sacrificed?

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Friday

*Time Magazine* did an article where they talked about a movie made about 40 years ago called "The King of Kings." It is a movie about Jesus, and when a preview audience saw the film, they didn't like it that when Jesus was on the Cross, he had hair under his arms. So they made him shave his entire upper body to be in the movie! When it comes to Jesus, we try to soften the edges, and make Him into an unreal, dreamy like character, but Jesus really went through this suffering.

Let's back up a little, look at Matthew 26:38-39. What kind of emotions to you think Jesus is feeling here?

Why is He feeling this way do you think?

Now look at Matthew 5:11-12, what does Jesus say here about suffering? (These verses are also your memory verses for this week)

Why is it that Jesus gives such courageous instructions to His followers, but when He is in the Garden, He is in tears? He is in agony, He is sweating drops of blood? Why?

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Saturday

**On the cross, do you think Jesus was dealing only with physical pain? Why or why not?**

**The Scriptures tell us that we all have stains, or sin in our lives, we lie, we deceive people, we turn away from those in need, we look the other way, we think only of ourselves, we judge, we use people, we ignore, we wound, we gossip, we take. Do you believe this to be true of all people?**

**Do you ever compare yourself to others around you and think, they're doing worse things so at least I'm better than them? Give an example of a time when you did this.**

**Have you ever been around someone who is more truthful, or more courageous for God than you? How does that make you feel?**

**In Isaiah 6:5, Isaiah experiences God's presence, how does he react?**

**Now, look at Luke 5:8, what does Peter say when he realizes who Jesus is?**

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Sunday

**When Jesus is on the cross, what He is saying is, all that guilt and unworthiness that you feel in my presence, I'll take that on me.**

**Have you ever been talking or writing notes in class when all of a sudden the teacher comes up behind you? How do you feel at that moment?**

**Have you ever been saying mean and cruel things about a person only to have them find out, or overhear you? How do you feel at that moment?**

**Now think about all of humanity from the beginning of time, how much regret, how much guilt, how much cruelty, how much evil. You know what it is to lay in bed and wish for a do over because of the wrong you did, you know how heavy that feels, what would it have felt like to have all the sins of the world placed on your shoulders?**

**Look at Isaiah 53:5, what does this say about why He suffered for us?**

**What we see on the cross is way more than suffering, it is the full horror of human sin, and it matters because Jesus paid the debt we couldn't pay.**

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## Monday

Have you ever seen that book called "What if?" It asks questions like, "What if Abraham Lincoln had not been shot, would our country be different?"

Think about this "what if" question and answer it in as much detail as you can, What if Jesus could have lived to be an old man and died peacefully in His sleep?

In Matthew 20:28 it says, "I did not come to be served but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many." What does this tell you about Jesus' death on the cross?

Have any of you ever asked where God was in all this? How could He have let this happen? It seems like an extremely cruel thing for a Father to do to His Son. What do you think? Where was God? Why did He let this happen?

A pastor I heard once was talking about his church and how much he loved it. He had been there for ten years, had moved across the country leaving his home and job to come there. He then said to the audience, "Do I love you enough to sacrifice my son to save you? Could I watch my son suffer and die? No, I couldn't do that, I don't know love like that. God does, however, God loves you and I that much, He is willing to watch while His beloved Son is beaten and mocked, and rejected. John 3:16 say's, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life."

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Tuesday

After looking at the previous pages of this lesson, can you think of any other way God could have shown us the depth of His love? Give examples if you think of anything.

Some of you need to acknowledge some stuff that's been going on in your life, some sin that is drawing you away from God. Just take a moment to confess these things and receive His forgiveness realizing your sins were already taken care of on the cross.

Most of you have known God for a long time, and you've heard this story over and over, but maybe it's been a long time since you've just really felt overwhelmed by what Christ did on the cross. Take a moment to say, Father, I can't believe a love like yours, I'm so grateful and I want to live as your child.

Dear God...

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