

CHAPTER

19

This chapter contains the story of the mocking, the scourging and beating of Jesus, the placing of a crown of thorns upon His head, His being led to Golgotha bearing a heavy cross, His death upon that cross, and His burial. From one point of view, this was the greatest crime ever committed, but for us who believe, it brings the greatest of blessings, the gift of eternal life. Read the entire chapter.

Verses 1 through 3. Scourging was an almost unbelievably cruel punishment, which in some cases caused the death of the person so treated. The scourge was a leather whip ending in several strands loaded with sharp pieces of bone or metal. It lacerated the flesh at each stroke. After this, Roman soldiers platted a crown of thorns and placed it upon His head and dressed Him in a purple robe, a sign of royalty. They then mocked Jesus, crying out, "Hail, King of the Jews." The Romans, for the most part, looked down upon the Jews and took every opportunity to disparage them.

389. Pilate ordered Jesus to be _____ and did not interfere when his soldiers _____ Jesus by dressing Him up and hailing Him as King of the Jews.

Verse 4. After having had Jesus scourged, Pilate again went outside and told the Jews, saying, "I bring Him forth to you to let you know that I find no fault with Him." This seems a very inconsistent action, and indeed it was, but Pilate evidently hoped that the Jews would be satisfied with the scourging of Jesus and he could then set Him free.

390. Pilate hoped that the Jews would be _____ with the punishment he had already inflicted upon Jesus and he could set Him free.

Verses 5 through 7. Jesus came forth wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said, "Behold the man." But when the Chief Priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him. Crucify Him." Pilate answered, "All right, you take Him and crucify Him, I find no fault in Him." The Jews insisted that by their laws, He should be killed, for He called Himself the Son of God.

391. Wearing a crown of thorns and a purple robe in a manner to ridicule His claim to kingship, Jesus was brought forth again and as the priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, " _____ ." Pilate told them to take Him and _____ Him for he found no _____ in Him. The

Jews said that according to their law, He should die because He _____ Himself the Son of God.

Verses 8 through 10. When Pilate heard this, he was frightened; so he took Jesus into the hall again and asked Him where He was from. Jesus did not answer and that annoyed Pilate. He said, "Why do you refuse to answer me? Don't you know that I have the power either to free you or to put you to death?"

392. It _____ Pilate to learn that Jesus called Himself the Son of God, and it _____ him when Jesus refused to answer when he asked, "Where did you come from?"

Verse 11. In his annoyance, Pilate asked Jesus if He did not realize the power that his position gave him. Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all over me if it were not given you from Heaven. Therefore, those who delivered Me into your hands have the greater sin."

393. Jesus said that the _____ of those who delivered Him over to Roman authority was _____ than Pilate's sin in sentencing Him to death.

Verse 12. Pilate tried to release Jesus but the Jews cried out vehemently, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Anyone who declares that he is a king, has committed a treasonable act."

394. The Jewish leaders insisted that anyone who declared himself king, committed a treasonable act. Jesus had done this and Pilate would be committing a _____ act towards Caesar if he freed Jesus.

Verses 13 through 15. At these words, Pilate brought out Jesus again and sat down in the judgment seat in the place called Gabbatha. It was about the sixth hour of the day of preparation for the Passover. (About noon of Friday.) The writer was very explicit about the time and place of this, the last stage of Jesus' trial. Pilate called out to the Jews, "Behold your king." The Jews replied, "Away with Him. Crucify Him." Pilate, with feigned surprise and in a mocking voice, said, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." A black lie from the blackest of hearts, but they knew this was what Pilate wished to hear.

395. Pilate again brought Jesus out and called to the angry crowd, " _____ your king?" The angry crowd responded,

" _____ with Him. _____ Him." Pilate answered, "Shall I _____ your king?" The angry crowd replied, "We have no _____ but Caesar."

Verse 16. Therefore, Pilate delivered Jesus up to them to be crucified, and they took Him and led Him away. Pilate had gotten what he wanted, an acknowledgment from the Jews that Caesar was their king, an admission that could hardly have been dragged out of them had they been in their right minds, but they were beside themselves with hatred. This sad and tragic scene presents a sorry commentary on human nature. A ruler who is willing to send an innocent man to his death because it is politically expedient and a people so full of religious bigotry that they become mad, unable to judge the truth, robbed of all compassion, and consumed by hatred.

396. A _____ scene is pictured here. A ruler is governed by political _____ rather than righteousness, and a people who let religious _____ rob them of all sense of what is good and true.

Verses 17 and 18. They led Jesus away, bearing His cross, to a place called Golgotha, place of the skull. There they crucified Him, along with two others, one on either side.

397. Jesus was led away, carrying His own cross, to Golgotha where they _____ Him.

Verses 19 through 22. These verses tell us of the inscription which Pilate ordered placed upon the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." It was written in Hebrew (some translations state Aramaic), Greek, and Latin, so it could be read by all who passed by. This offended the Jewish leaders and they asked Pilate to change it to "He that called Himself King of the Jews." "What I have written, I have written," was Pilate's reply.

398. The inscription which Pilate had placed on the cross was " _____ of Nazareth, _____ of the Jews," and the leaders protested.

Verses 23 and 24. It was probably a common practice of the soldiers who carried out executions, that they divided the clothing of the person executed among themselves. There were four soldiers so they divided Jesus' clothes into four parts, but when they came to His coat, they found that it was one piece of cloth. They realized what a shame it would be to tear it into four pieces, so they decided to cast lots for it. The writer, seeing this, realized that this was a fulfillment of prophecy found in one of the Messianic Psalms, Psalm 22:18.

399. The soldiers _____ the garments of Jesus among themselves as foretold in _____ : _____.

Verses 25 through 27. When Jesus, looking down from the cross, saw His mother standing by the side of John, His dearest friend, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son," and to John, "Behold your mother". And from that time on, John took her into his own home. Mary, wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene were also standing near.

400. In spite of the agonizing pain He was suffering as He hung on the cross, Jesus thought of His mother. He told His mother, "You take John as your _____, and John, you take Mary as your _____."

Verses 28 through 30. Jesus, knowing that now all was fulfilled, said, "I'm thirsty." A soldier standing by took a sponge, dipped it in vinegar, put it on the end of a pole, and raised it to His lips. Jesus took a sip and said, "It is finished," bowed His head, and surrendered up His spirit. There seems no logic in the sequence of these events, but they were reported by one who was present, just as they happened.

401. Jesus, after taking a sip of vinegar, said, "It is finished," then He bowed His head, and _____ up His spirit.

Verses 31. It seems to have been the custom of the Romans to leave the bodies of those crucified upon the cross until the bodies rotted away or were otherwise disposed of. Probably the two malefactors crucified with Jesus were also Jewish, and it would have been a serious breach of their law and their religious traditions to leave a dead body unburied over one of their most high holy days. To break the legs of the victims would insure that they were dead and could be quickly buried. How cruel and brazen these people were in insisting on the death of an innocent man, yet how careful to observe some of their finer, insignificant points of the law. This is what Jesus referred to when He spoke of the Pharisees who "strained out gnats and swallowed camels."

402. True or False? The hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders is clearly shown in this case when they scrupulously kept the law forbidding leaving a dead body hanging over night, but had no remorse about bearing false witness against an innocent person and insisting upon his death.

Verses 32 through 37. Two soldiers came and broke the legs of the two who were crucified with Jesus, but when they came to Him, they saw that He was already dead, so they did not break His legs. Rather, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and blood and water flowed out. In these actions, two prophecies were fulfilled. One, "A bone of Him shall not be broken," Psalm 34:20, and the other, "They shall look on Him who they have pierced," Zech. 12:10. The one who wrote these things was an actual witness of them, and you can safely believe his testimony.

403. The soldiers _____ the legs of the two who were crucified with Jesus. They did not break His legs, but they _____ His side, and both of these actions _____ prophecy.

Verses 38 through 40. It was Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, who was given permission by Pilate to take down the body of Jesus and bury it. Nicodemus came along to help, and he brought about one hundred pounds of precious spices to be wrapped with the body, a partial embalming process.

404. It was _____ of Arimathea, and _____ who took the body of Jesus from the cross, prepared it for burial, and placed it in the tomb.

Verses 41 and 42. Near the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in this garden, a new tomb, hewn out of rock. Matthew said it was Joseph's own tomb. Because there was little time before the preparation for the Passover and the tomb was near at hand and the owner was Joseph, the body was placed in this tomb. The women who were present at the crucifixion followed along and saw where the body was placed. Matthew was the writer who told that the tomb was sealed and a guard placed at the entrance.

405. The body of Jesus was placed in a new tomb which had never been used. It belonged to _____, a secret disciple of Jesus. It was _____ to the place where Jesus was crucified and was probably used as a temporary resting place for the body. A temporary place was all that was needed, but the ones who placed the body there, did not know that. God did.

ANSWERS:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 389. Scourged, mocked | 398. Jesus, king, |
| 390. Satisfied | 399. Divided, Psalm 22:18 |
| 391. Crucify him, crucify, fault, called | 400. Son, mother |
| 392. Frightened, annoyed | 401. Surrendered |
| 393. Sin, greater | 402. True |
| 394. Treasonable | 403. Broke, pierced, fulfilled |
| 395. Behold, Away, crucify, Crucify, king | 404. Joseph, Nicodemus |
| 396. Tragic, expediency, bigotry | 405. Joseph, near |
| 397. Crucified | |