

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 27

Introduction

Jesus had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and taken to the house of Annas the high priest. Then He was moved to the palace of Caiaphas. At daybreak, He was brought before the council of the Sanhedrin. Then finally, the civil trials began—first before Pilate, then Herod, and then back to Pilate again. There were six interrogations in all. In between, the men who held Jesus mocked and beat Him. They blindfolded Him, struck Him on the face, spat on Him, spoke blasphemies against Him, placed a crown of thorns upon His head and used Him for their own entertainment.

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him saying, “It is as you say.” So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man” (Luke 23:3–4). Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, who was exceedingly glad to see Him, hoping to witness a miracle. As Herod proceeded to question Jesus, the chief priests and scribes hurled vehement accusations at Him, and Jesus answered nothing. Herod and his men also mocked Jesus, arraying Him in a royal robe and sending Him back to Pilate. Scripture tells us that Pilate and Herod became friends that very day.

In addition to inquiring about whether He was truly a king, Pilate asked Jesus another question that has been earnestly debated for over two thousand years: “What is truth?” Jesus’ declaration of Himself had prompted the question when He stated: “You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37–38). But Pilate and the people were not open to their opportunity to hear the truth, choosing instead to release the robber Barabbas in place of the innocent Jesus.

Did you know ~

It is this same King Herod that eighteen months earlier was moved to conviction by the preaching of John the Baptist. Herod liked to listen to John preach and whenever he did, his heart was stirred. But Herod’s wife, Herodias, hated John for pointing out the fact she was living in sin with him. One night during a drunken party, Herod offered up to one-half his kingdom to his daughter for dancing before the king and his drunken friends. Herodias duped the king by having her ask for the head of John. Now, a year and a half later, although delighted to meet Jesus, Herod was no longer convicted by hearing truth; his conscience had become seared. The lesson in this is: be careful to listen when God speaks. Answer the door of your heart when He knocks. He’ll knock more than once; but if you ignore His voice long enough, like Herod, you’ll go from hearing Him gladly to treating Him contemptuously. Beware: then there will be no sense of guilt or fear of appearing before God one day to answer for your sin!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Truth on Trial	John 18:28–19:1–16	Matt. 27; Mark 15; Luke 23
The King on a Cross	John 19:17–30	Matt. 27; Mark 15; Luke 23
Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb	John 19:31–42	Matt. 27; Mark 15; Luke 23

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: John 18:37b NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

*. . . Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

John 18:28–40 [Read only]
John 19:1–16

Truth on Trial

1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.

2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.

3 Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him with their hands.

4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”

5 Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!”

6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”

7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,

9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?”

But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

11 Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour.

And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

16 Then He delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.

John 19:17–30

The King on a Cross

17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the Place* of a Skull,
which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and
Jesus in the center.

19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the
city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,'
but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews." "

22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and
made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic.

Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.

24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall
be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

"They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

Therefore the soldiers did these things.

25 Now here stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister,

Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by,
He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"

27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour
that disciple took her to his own home.

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that
the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine,
put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"
And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

John 19:31–42

Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb

31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain
on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day),
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and
that they might be taken away.

32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of
the other who was crucified with Him.

33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead,
they did not break His legs.

34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and
immediately blood and water came out.

35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and
he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled,

“Not one of His bones shall be broken.”

37 And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews’ Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 19:1–16

Truth on Trial

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 19:1–16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 19:17–30

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

John 19:31–42

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
