



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Execution of the Son of God

John 18:1-19:37

READY

- What situation in your life causes you to become timid or embarrassed about your faith in Christ? Why?
- Did you see the “The Passion of Christ” movie? How would you rate the movie for biblical accuracy?

SET

Context of John 18:1-19:37

The events of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and execution receive attention in chapters 18-19. Because John’s purpose was to present Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God, he produced evidence to substantiate this throughout his report of Jesus’ passion. John’s account is very orderly and follows the logical flow of events; his rejection, his four trials, and his crucifixion. As you read about Jesus’ final hours, give thanks for his sacrificial love.

Keys to Text

Crucifixion: The method of torture and execution used by the Romans to put Christ to death. Crucifixion was used by many nations of the ancient world. Alexander the Great of Greece crucified 2,000 inhabitants of Tyre when he captured the city. The Romans later adopted this method and often used it throughout the empire. Crucifixion was normally reserved only for slaves and criminals.

GO

Read John 18:1-19:37

1. How did Christ demonstrate His deity at the time of His arrest in the Garden? Why did these acts only intensify the guilt of Jesus’ enemies?
2. Compare Peter’s response in the Garden with his response at Jesus’ trial. Why was there such a change? (See 18:10-27)
3. Based on John’s account, how would you describe Pilate? What kind of man was he? What was his opinion of Christ?
4. What statements and facts in John’s account of Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion point to God’s sovereignty?
5. How do you feel when you stop to ponder the fact that Jesus Christ suffered and died on a cruel cross for your sins? When have you been most affected by this truth?
6. What friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc. need to know that Jesus died for their sins? How can you most effectively share the gospel with each of them?

SPORTS IN FOCUS *THE CROSS*

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the climax of redemptive history, the focal point of God’s plan of salvation. God’s redeeming work culminated in the cross where the Lord Jesus bore the sins of the world. Discuss the statement by J.I. Packer on the Gospel in three words.

“Were I asked to focus the New Testament message in three words, my proposal would be *adoption through propitiation*, and I do not expect ever to meet a richer or more pregnant summary of the gospel than that.”

—J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

Propitiation: Covering; atoning sacrifice.