



**Main Passage: John 19:17-24**

## Theological Theme

Jesus's willing sacrifice on the cross completed the work of God's redemptive plan and removed the need for daily animal sacrifice as atonement for our sin.

## Introduction

- ❓ What is the first thought that comes to your mind when you hear the word sacrifice?
- 🤔 How do you think the world tends to think about sacrifice? What are some of the spiritual applications of sacrifice?

## 1. The Crucifixion (John 19:17-18)

These verses pick up the account of the crucifixion right after the trial and the time when Pilate gave in to the crowd's demand for Jesus to be crucified. Scripture describes Jesus as "carrying the cross by himself" (v. 17). This was most likely just the cross beam but still would've been physically daunting with Jesus having just endured the beating from the Roman guards throughout the previous night.

- ❓ How does it impact you to reflect on the trial and crucifixion of Christ? Why do these events matter for every person who has ever lived?
- ❓ What does the length Jesus went to save people tell you about the depth of His love?
- ❓ Application: How is God speaking to you as you reflect on Jesus's sacrifice for you?

## 2. The Charges (John 19:19-22)

It was customary in crucifixion that the convicted had their crimes written out and hung as a charge around their neck. This was a further attempt at humiliation, with their crimes listed out for all to see and mock. Once they arrived at the spot where the crucifixion was to take place, the title or sign was taken from their necks and placed at the top of their cross, allowing all who passed by to know the reasoning for the execution.

- ❓ How was the charge against Jesus accurate, even if not in the way Pilate or others understood it?
- ❓ What is the irony of this statement about Jesus being proclaimed to many people across many different languages? What does this tell you about God's ability to work all things according to His plan no matter the circumstances?
- ❓ Application: What are some ways people might speak the truth about Jesus today without meaning to? How should followers of Jesus seek to interact with non-believers in these moments?

### 3. Prophecy Fulfilled (John 19:23-24)

Just as God used Pilate to give Jesus the truthful title King of the Jews in the face of opposition, He also used the Roman soldiers without their understanding. When you read these verses about the seemingly small details of the crucifixion, it is clear God cares about every detail and uses even those who are not willing participants to accomplish His purposes.

- ❓ When was a time you saw people used by God even if they weren't following Him? How has He used you when you were not focused on Him?
- ❓ How do fulfilled prophecies about Jesus serve to build your faith in Him?
- ❓ Application: What is something specific from this fresh look at the crucifixion that you may have missed before? How will you apply it to your life?

### Conclusion

- ❓ What stands out to you most about the sacrifice of Jesus today?
- ❓ How can we challenge one another to continually view the work of Jesus with fresh eyes?
- ❓ Who can you have a gospel conversation with by sharing the events of the crucifixion this week?