JOHN 19

Behold the Man, Behold Your King

the scourging, the verdict, the cross and the garden tomb

> *"Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."*
> JOHN 19:30

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in John

1. John 18 left Jesus arrested in the garden, questioned by Annas, denied three times by Peter, and handed to the Roman governor at dawn.

2. John tells the trial as a drama of going out and coming in.

3. Time and place matter. John dates the verdict “the day of preparation for the Passover … about the sixth hour” (v. 14) — the hours when Passover lambs were being prepared — and Mark places the…

Behold the Man

Scourged, crowned with thorns, declared innocent — and condemned for the claim to be the Son of God

JOHN 19:2

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him;

DAVID GUZIK

The lash tore the back to strips; the real charge was “Son of God.”

R.C. SPROUL

Man as God intended him to be, with no fault in Him.

MATTHEW HENRY

The physician scourged, and so the patient healed.

ἐμαστίγωσεν

EMASTIGŌSEN · “SCOURGED”

From mastigoō, to whip with a mastix, a lash.

Three “beholds”

“BEHOLD, THE MAN!” v5 · Pilate	“BEHOLD, YOUR KING!” v14 · Pilate	“BEHOLD, YOUR SON!” vv26–27 · Jesus
a scourged Man in a purple robe and thorns meant to stir pity **answer: “Crucify, crucify!”**	at the judgment seat, the sixth hour meant as a taunt **answer: “no king but Caesar”**	“Behold, your mother!” spoken from the cross makes a new family **answer: he took her home**

Three “beholds” in one chapter

Pilate’s first two are pity and mockery and both are refused; the third, from the cross, is obeyed.

Compare the three cards: two invitations to look at Jesus are refused by the crowd, and one word from Jesus Himself creates a household.

Behold Your King

Authority from above, the friend of Caesar, the Pavement, and a people who choose Caesar over their King

JOHN 19:11

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

DAVID GUZIK

Pilate was on trial before Jesus; God held the power.

R.C. SPROUL

Pilate ordained by providence to act; this is about God.

C.H. SPURGEON

No thorn no throne; the sceptre of reed rules hearts.

MATTHEW HENRY

Power lent from above; the priests choose Caesar.

ἐξουσία … ἄνωθεν
EXOUSIA … ANŌTHEN · "AUTHORITY … FROM ABOVE"

Pilate boasts twice in verse 10, "I have exousia to release You, and I have exousia to crucify You."

The King on the Cross

Golgotha, the title in three languages, the seamless tunic, and a mother given a son

JOHN 19:17

They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

DAVID GUZIK

A slave's torture; Jesus in the center; the title stands.

R.C. SPROUL

The crossbeam, Simon, the foot support, the placard, His mother.

C.H. SPURGEON

Not borne but bearing; Providence keeps the title written.

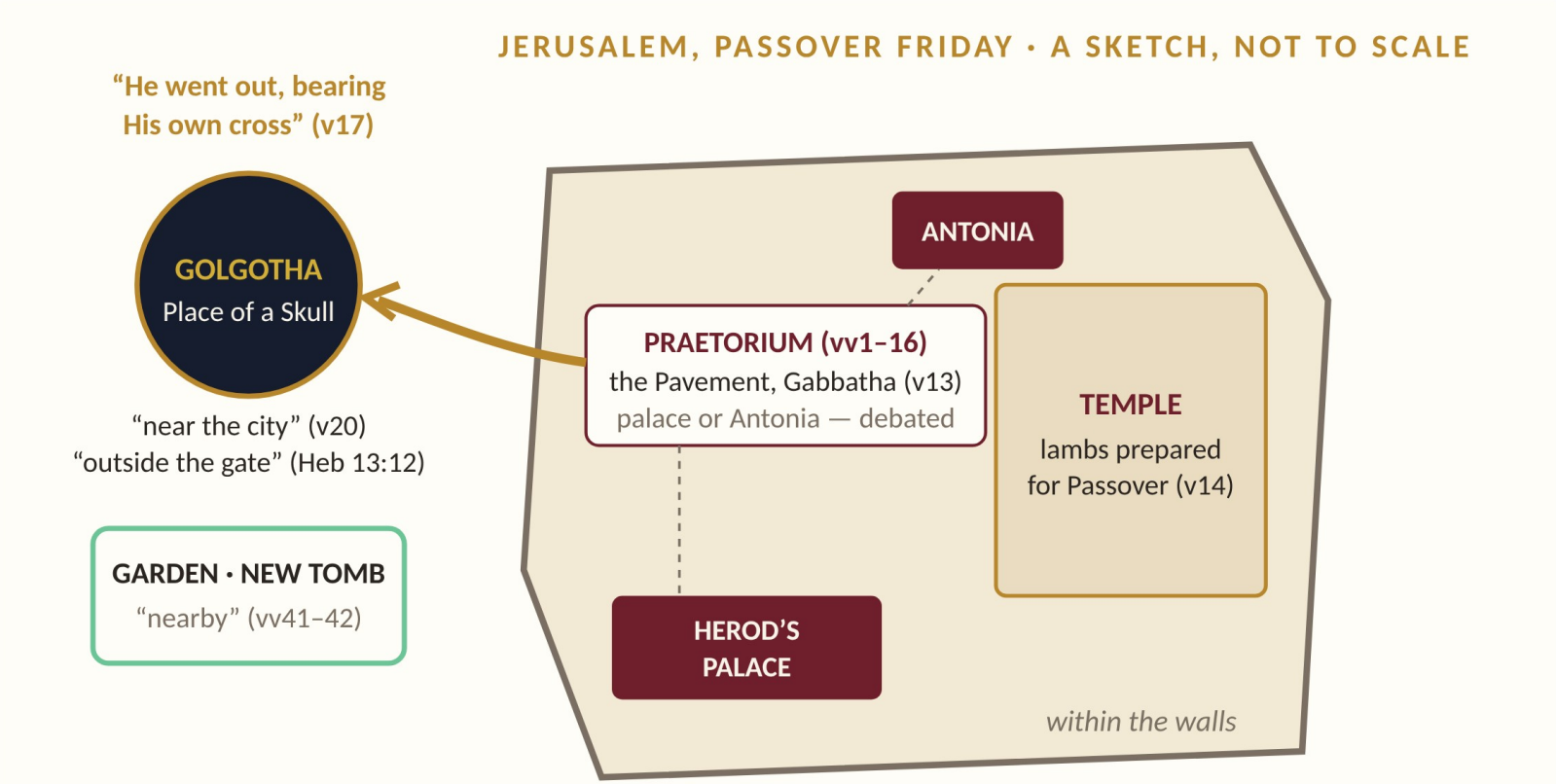
MATTHEW HENRY

A Saviour to all nations; spoils divided at His agony.

τίτλος
TITLOS · "INSCRIPTION"

A Latin loanword (titulus): the placard that announced a condemned man's crime.

From the Praetorium to the garden



Follow the gold arrow: Jesus is led out of the city to Golgotha, and the garden tomb lies close by — every place John names sits within a short walk of the temple where the lambs were being prepared.

It Is Finished

"I am thirsty," the sour wine on hyssop, and the cry of the Victor

JOHN 19:30

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

DAVID GUZIK

The Victor's cry — "Paid in full"; He reclined His head.

R.C. SPROUL

Not just His life over — His mission fulfilled.

C.H. SPURGEON

The debt paid; why add to what is complete?

MATTHEW HENRY

His meat and drink to finish His work; He composed Himself to sleep.

τετέλεσται

TETELESTAI · "IT IS FINISHED"

One word in Greek, the perfect passive of teleō, "to bring to its end (telos), complete, carry out."

Scripture fulfilled at the cross

JOHN 19	WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS	THE SCRIPTURE IT FULFILLED
v24	They divided My outer garments … cast lots	**Psalm 22:18** the soldiers did these things
v28	“I am thirsty” — sour wine on hyssop	**Psalm 69:21** “for my thirst … vinegar”
v36	Not a bone of Him shall be broken	**Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20** the Passover lamb
v37	They shall look on Him whom they pierced	**Zechariah 12:10** fulfilled now — and at His coming
vv38–42	Laid in a rich man’s new tomb	**Isaiah 53:9** an echo John does not name

Soldiers, priests and Pilate act freely — and every act lands exactly where the Scripture said it would.

Read across each row: John names four Scriptures fulfilled in a few hours, and the burial echoes a fifth.

Pierced and Buried

No bone broken, blood and water, a true witness, and two secret disciples who come into the open

JOHN 19:34

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

DAVID GUZIK

Unbroken legs, pierced side; the looking still to come.

R.C. SPROUL

Crucified, dead and buried; the creed and Isaiah 53.

C.H. SPURGEON

Blood for guilt, water for power; God makes cowards bold.

MATTHEW HENRY

Blood for remission, water for regeneration; a conqueror in the grave.

ἔνυξεν … ἐξεκέντησαν

ENYXEN … EXEKENTĒSAN · "PIERCED … PIERCED"

Two different verbs. The soldier "pierced" (nyssō, v. 34) — to prick, jab, stab — His side with a spear (lonchē), a soldier's check that the body was dead.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Pilate is the one on trial.

Pilate sits on the judgment seat, but John shows a judge who is afraid, maneuvering and finally giving in.

2

All authority is borrowed.

Pilate's twice-claimed exousia (v. 10) is answered by "from above" (v. 11).

3

Sin has degrees, and every degree is still sin.

"He who delivered Me to you has the greater sin" (v. 11): Pilate is less guilty than the one who handed Jesus over, but he is not innocent.

4

The people chose Caesar.

"We have no king but Caesar" (v. 15) — the leaders of Israel renounced their King to keep their place.

More to carry

5

The thorns built the throne.

Spurgeon: “No thorn no throne.”

6

The title preached the gospel in three languages.

Hebrew, Latin and Greek — the world’s languages over the world’s Saviour.

7

Even from the cross, Jesus keeps the fifth commandment.

“Woman, behold, your son!”

8

“Finished” is a perfect tense.

Tetelestai (vv. 28, 30): done, and it stays done.

Talk it through

1. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and still handed Him over to protect himself. Where am I tempted to do the wrong thing to keep my standing with someone?

2. Whose authority am I under right now — a judge, an officer, a boss, a parole board — and what changes if that authority is "given … from above"?

3. "We have no king but Caesar." What "Caesar" have I been tempted to put on the throne instead of Christ?

4. From the cross Jesus made John and Mary into family. Who has God given me to look after — or to be looked after by?

5. If "It is finished" is true, what am I still trying to add to Christ's work to feel right with God?

CLOSING

John 19 holds the darkest hours of history, and John tells them with almost no emotion, because he wants us to see what was really happening: a borrowed authority condemning the Lord of all, a crowd choosing Caesar, and a King finishing the work His Father gave Him. Look on Him whom they pierced. It is finished — for you.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the John study page.