



TEXT: JOHN 19:1-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Life Groups** – In the midst of this pandemic, Life Groups are the best way to be known and cared for in our church! They allow us to build community around the gospel. Multiple groups are already using the service called “Zoom.” It is free for the users and it will enable you to see everyone in your group all at once, and chat face-to-face. You can access this from your phone or a laptop. Your group leader will be sending you a link that you click to open the group meeting. If you are not part of a group and would like to be, you can find out more info by visiting redeemerchurch.com/lifegroups.
- **Serverockymount.com** - Now is our moment to live on mission. We are repurposing our Serve Rocky Mount website (www.ServeRockyMount.com) to be a hub for needs in our city and for people to volunteer to meet needs. Please go to this page if you are able to help and click the button “I CAN HELP” and you will see a brief survey asking about the ways you are able to help. If you are in need of help, click the button that says “I NEED HELP” and select from the options listed. We will not be able to meet every need, but we are working hard to meet as many needs as possible. That site will also have information about where to access needed resources for people in our area.

Join with your group in praying for our church, for one another, for our city and our nation and the world.

Leading Off...

1. Have you ever felt unqualified to fill in as a substitute?
2. Why do many feel qualified to be their own substitute in regard to their salvation?

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the substitute.

Read John 19:1-6

3. At the end of chapter 18, we see Pilate offering to free the robber Barabbas instead of Jesus. Scholars tell us his name actually may have been the common name “Jesus”. Barabbas means “son of dad”. How does this bit of knowledge show us that just as the crowd wanted Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus, we often do the same thing with our own sin?
4. In 19:1 we see that Pilate had Jesus flogged. He was literally almost beaten to death. In 19:2, his head was pierced with a crown of huge thorns and then he was mocked. Why did the religious leaders want Jesus dead?

Read John 19:7-11

5. Some religions say Jesus never claimed to be the Son of God. But that is why they wanted to kill Him, as we see here in verse 7. Why is this such an important point for our faith?
6. How do you defend Jesus' claims to be the Son of God?
7. Why is neutrality on this issue of Jesus as the Son of God really hostility against Jesus?
8. Pilate sees that things are spinning out of control. Others feel it is as well. Even today, in our world it may seem that things are spinning out of control. How does this passage encourage you, that even in the craziest of times, Jesus is in complete control?

Read John 19:12-16

9. Discuss this statement: "grace is free, but following Christ costs you everything."
10. These people were choosing bondage to sin over freedom in Christ. How do people do this even today?

Wrapping Up

11. Barabbas is sent off a free man, yet Jesus, as a substitute, took his place, and our place, and was killed for sin. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21 and discuss the fact that the Gospel is this: "Jesus in my place".