



**TEXT: JOHN 19:17-42**

## **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 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](http://redeemerchurch.com/lifegroups).
- **ServeRockyMount.com** - Now is our moment to live **on** mission. We are repurposing our Serve Rocky Mount website ([www.ServeRockyMount.com](http://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.
- **Elder Led Prayer** - Join us on Facebook Live on Wednesdays and Fridays for elder led prayer from 12:00-12:10 PM at the start of your lunch break!

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## **Leading Off...**

1. Have you ever had a time (maybe now) when you have experienced the fear of abandonment?
2. Why can we not ever separate our salvation experience from Jesus’ abandonment experience?

## **BIG IDEA: Jesus is the abandoned Savior.**

### **Read John 19:16b-18, 23**

3. What is Jesus’ physical state as He is forced to carry the cross to Golgotha?
4. In verse 18, John is assuming we understand what a “crucifixion” is. 2,000 years removed from this, how are we a bit numb to the brutality of this form of execution?
5. Jesus is crucified between two criminals. We know from other gospel accounts that one of these criminals professed faith in Jesus. How is this possible?
6. Consider and discuss the fact that Jesus was in control and could have ended this at any time.

### **Read John 19:25-27**

7. Very few were with Jesus at His crucifixion. Jesus is abandoned by family, friends and disciples. Why is it important for us to understand what this means?
8. Consider and discuss what Mary, Jesus’ mother, was thinking and feeling emotionally.

9. How was Jesus demonstrating an “others-centered” love even as He was about to die?
10. Read Matthew 27:46. Jesus is abandoned by God, His Father. In all of eternity He has never known separation from His Father. Consider the fact that Jesus did this for you. How is this darkest moment in history essential to the gospel message? Discuss the wonder of the gospel.

**Read John 19:30-33**

11. When Jesus says, “It is finished.”, what is He saying?
12. Talk about how this is so important to understand.

**Read John 19:36-37, 41-42**

13. Note how death came through the sin at a tree in Genesis, and life came through a tree at Calvary. Death also came to the world in the Garden of Eden, but life comes to the world at the Garden of Gethsemane. Discuss the beauty of God’s plan.
14. We have God’s ear. The call is to believe this gospel message and repent. For believers, what is God speaking to you through this message?

**Wrapping Up**

15. Even as we endure the strange things we are experiencing today, how does this message of knowing Jesus will not abandon you encourage you today?