



John's Gospel

1 Crown of Thorns 1 Hammer 3 Nails!

Read - John 18:28-32

Pilate asked what crime Jesus had committed, of what did he stand accused?

It was a good question.

Jesus had annoyed the religious leaders, of that there was no doubt.

He had been critical of social and religious structures.

He had healed villagers;

He had told stories to the crowds;

He was probably a threat to public law and order; but was that enough to condemn him, to end his life?

They wanted him condemned but not by them.

They handed him over to be crucified.

Pray

For those on trial this week and for those appointed to judge them.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear my prayer.

FULFILMENT

John 18:33-38

I was only doing my job....

I'm an administrator, a governor, a public servant....

I'm not a social worker or psycho-analyst, and even if I were,

I might convince the prisoner, but not the crowd.

I must say though, I admired him.

He didn't flinch, he didn't plead.

He was calm...not passive, but calm.

What did he mean 'My kingdom is not from this world'?

He looked at me

Almost as if he understood my dilemma.

What is truth?

I was moved actually...I was very moved.

But my job is not to be moved,

It's my job to administer.

I had a crowd to consider.....

Pray

For those who compromise with their conscience and make decisions which hurt and harm innocent people... and when questions are asked, reply "I was only doing my job" and for those who suffer as a consequence.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear my prayer.

READINESS

John 18: 38b – 19:7

Soldiers, taking a chance for a bit of fun.
They had a heavy day ahead.
Soon they would have to put on their public face –
disciplined, controlled, efficient.
But for now a bit of fun with the lads –
with no risk of recrimination.
Dead men tell no stories,
and Jesus was going to his death.

Pray

For those appointed to keep public order,
and for those tempted to abuse their power.
Lord in your mercy.
Hear my prayer.

ABANDONMENT

John 19:8-16

He told the crowd to decide.
'It's up to you.'
They could all see what he was angling for
and they were damned if he was going to get it.
Pilate's loyalty was called into question.
He made a decision and then had to live with it.
Tormented by the thought of where power lies,
who passed judgement on who that day?

Pray

For those who need discernment to see what is right,
Who need faith to believe what is right,
and courage to do what is right.
Lord in you mercy.
Hear our prayer.

RELEASE

John 19: 16b-25

Stripped now –
of clothing,
of disciples,
of friends.
Alone,
naked and vulnerable,
with nothing to protect you from the pain to come.

Pray

For those deserted by friends,
for those who are alone and vulnerable.
Lord in your mercy.
Hear my prayer.

REDEMPTION

John 19: 26-28 (Richard)

We look on from a distance:
A distance of time and space and culture,
And it hurts to watch him dying, even at a distance.
It hurts to see such tenderness, such love.
It hurts to know that we are being rescued.
It hurts to know how much we are valued and loved.

Pray

For the depth of love for us, we thank you.
Lord in your mercy.
Hear my prayer.

COMPASSION

John 19: John 28- 30

At the end he gave up
all that he was,
all that he had ever been,
all of his beauty,
all his obedience,
all his loving.
He gave up his spirit,
he was returning to his Father
and the world sighs and waits.

Pray

For all who have died today,
for all who will miss them.
For all who are waiting.
for all who are longing for light.
Lord in you mercy.
Hear my prayer.

FORGIVENESS



FOR YOU!