

St. John L57 – Lessons 50-56 Study Summary

Lesson 50 – John 18:1-27 Pilate Questions Jesus

- Q1-2 – The Jewish Sanhedrin (Council) brought Jesus to Pilate early on Friday morning because Rome did not allow them to enforce a death penalty.
- Q3 – The formal Roman charge against Jesus would be treason: Jesus, the Jewish King, in place of Caesar.
- Q4-5 – Jesus let Pilate know that He was a King, but not a threat to Rome. Rather, He was not of this world, but had come into it to bear witness to the truth (of God).
- Q7 – Pilate concluded that Jesus was an innocent man. He tried to bypass the Jewish leaders by appealing to the crowd and release Jesus from prison as a (Roman) Passover tradition. The leaders, however, stirred up the people to demand Jesus' crucifixion and Barrabas' release.

Lesson 51 – John 19:1-30 Jesus Crucified

- Q1 – Pilate's Roman soldiers flogged Jesus with a cat-of-9-tails whip, thrust a thorny crown upon His brow, dressed Him up in a purple robe, and then pummeled Him with their fists in fake worship.
- Q2, 4 – Pilate then once more tried to release Jesus. He became fearful upon hearing Jesus made Himself the 'Son of God.' Romans believed in half-god, half-man demigods, and he didn't want to incur the wrath of a demigod. The Jewish leaders made it clear they would bring charges of treason against Pilate if he failed to act against Jesus.
- Q5-6 – Jesus was crucified at the Place of the Skull (Golgotha) outside of Jerusalem. His clothing was divided among 4 Roman soldiers, except for his seamlessly woven tunic (like a night shirt).
- Q7 – Jesus directed His disciple John to care for His own mother, Mary.

Lesson 52 – John 19:31-42 Jesus' Death and Burial

- Q1-2 – Old Testament law forbids leaving dead bodies on 'trees' overnight, so the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to break the legs of those crucified. Since Jesus was already dead, a Roman soldier shoved a spear into His rib cage. Out poured blood and water from the wound.
- Q4 – Joseph of Arimathea was described as a 'secret' disciple of Jesus. Peer pressures, confrontations, and open (physical) hostilities from colleagues, family and/or friends can lead to 'fearful silence' from people who believe in God. What Joseph of Arimathea eventually does show us is that there comes a time to leave the shadows and take/make a stand for Christ!
- Q5 – Joseph of Arimathea was wealthy and influential: he had no trouble getting a private meeting with Pilate; he had his own private family tomb; he was a respected member of the Sanhedrin (Council); and he was described as a righteous man who did not agree on crucifying Jesus.
- Q6 – Placing Jesus in Joseph's tomb, Nicodemus contributed about 75 lbs. of myrrh and aloes. Jesus was quickly wrapped in a few linen cloths until the women could return on Sunday to finish the job.

Lesson 53 – John 20:1-18 Jesus Rises and Speaks to Mary Magdalene

- Q1-2 – The Jewish leaders got permission from Pilate to have Jesus' tomb sealed and guarded. Even so, when Mary Magdalene arrived at dawn on Sunday, she found the stone rolled away (by an angel, per Matthew 28:2). When the leaders heard the stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there, they bribed the guards to say they fell asleep and the disciples took Him while they slept.
- Q3 – Peter and John ran to the tomb after Mary's report, John arriving first, but Peter entering first. Only John was ready to believe Jesus had resurrected.
- Q5 – Mary returned to the tomb and found two angels sitting where Jesus had lain, and also the linen cloths in two places. Turning around, she sees Jesus and thinks He's the gardener until He speaks her name aloud.
- Q7 – When she reported that she had 'seen and talked' with Jesus, the disciples dismissed her testimony as an idle tale.

Lesson 54 – John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

- Q1 – When Jesus suddenly appeared in the disciples locked room, they perceived He was a ghost. He responded by speaking “Peace” over them and letting them see and touch His bodily wounds.
- Q2 – Disciples are students and followers of a teacher; learners. Apostles are ‘sent out’, commissioned, as message-bearers (like heralds). At this first post-resurrection meeting, Jesus said that as He was sent by the Father, He was now sending them out.
- Q3 – Jesus died on Passover weekend, and He rose the Sunday after. Pentecost arrived 50 days later, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Since Jesus was ‘appearing’ off-and-on for 40 days, the disciples and followers in the upper room prayerfully waited 10 days in Jerusalem after He ascended up into heaven before their eyes.
- Q4 – Jesus revealed Himself to Thomas and commanded him to stop doubting and believe! Jesus said blessed are those (we) who believe without getting to physically see and speak to Him first.
- Q6 – John said Jesus did many more miracles than were recorded in the Gospels, and that the ones John chose to report were especially chosen to lead hearers to faith in Jesus!

Lesson 55 – John 21:1-14

The Miracle of Fish

- Q1 – Jesus informed the disciples through Mary Magdalene (on Sunday morning) that they were to meet Him in Galilee. Later, while waiting there, Peter and six other disciples decided to do some fishing from their boat. They were unsuccessful fishing all through the night.
- Q2, 3 – Undiscernible from the boat, Jesus called out from the shore to the boat and suggested dropping the nets over the right side. They caught a bounteous number of large fish (153). John exclaimed it must be Jesus, so Peter swam to the shore. All the disciples then came ashore and ate a fish breakfast with Him. This was the 3rd time Jesus appeared to His disciples after resurrecting.
- Q4 – From this event we can see how Jesus cares about the little details of our lives. He cares for all His creations, and, humanly speaking, loves us despite knowing EVERYTHING about us. Amazing!

Lesson 56 – John 21:15-25

Jesus Restores Peter

- Q1, 2 – Peter had denied (failed) Jesus 3X during His arrest; after the fish breakfast at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus asked Peter 3X if he “loved Me” while taking a short stroll. Broadly speaking, each time Jesus directed Peter to feed and tend (care for) His sheep and lambs (believers old and new).
- Q3 – Jesus let Peter know that he was going to die by crucifixion in his old age. History reports that Peter asked to be crucified upside down while in Rome, and that this request was granted.
- Q4, 5 – When Peter asked about John (following their stroll from a distance...), Jesus basically told him to mind his own business. A rumor started that John would not die because Jesus phrased His response with, “If I want Him to remain until I come, what is that to you?”. History records that John did not die a martyr’s death like all the other disciples, but died of old age in Ephesus. A principle to be gleaned from this dialog is that each individual is responsible to “follow Jesus” in the way that He calls him/her to serve. We all have a contribution to make to Christ’s body!
- Q6, 7 – John, the longest living of all Christ’s disciples (95-100 A.D.), is a reliable and truthful witness we can rely on. His testimony and writings were EYE WITNESS accounts (not second-hand reports).