

4/5/26

**From Grief to Hope
With Him All the Way
John 20: 11-18**

1. What emotions is Mary experiencing at the beginning of this passage?
2. What is Mary focused upon when she speaks to the angels and to Jesus (whom she does not recognize)?
3. Why do you think Mary fails to recognize Jesus at first?
4. What changes the moment Mary recognizes Him?
5. Mary came to the tomb expecting death, not resurrection. How do our expectations sometimes limit what we believe God can do?
6. How does this passage speak to people walking through loss, disappointment, or unanswered prayers?
7. Why is it significant that Mary's name is spoken by Jesus? What does that reveal about how God relates to each of us personally?
8. Why do you think Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to be the first witness of the resurrection?
9. What does this passage teach us about who is qualified to share the good news?
10. If Jesus spoke your name today the way he spoke Mary's, what do you think He would say?
11. How can you share the message of God's love through Jesus this coming week? To whom will you share?

3/29/26

**A Royal Execution
With Him All the Way
John 19:16b-22**

1. Read the Scripture twice. Each time be listening for a word, phrase, or image which resonates with your own heart this particular Holy Week. Share that word, phrase, or image with someone in conversation.
2. Cicero wrote that the very word "cross" should be far from a Roman citizen's thoughts, eyes, and ears — it was beneath their dignity. Yet this is the death Jesus dies, a death reserved for slaves and insurrectionists. What does it mean for your faith that God chose to enter the world at the very bottom of its power structures?
3. Crucifixion was not just a method of execution — it was a tool of social control, a public billboard of Roman power. Pastor Nick noted that the site was chosen near a road so travelers would see. How does understanding crucifixion as state terror rather than simply capital punishment change how you read the cross? What does it mean that Jesus chooses to die in company like this?
4. Pilate posts a sign reading "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek — ensuring that every literate person in any local language could read it. Pastor Roger pointed out that God turned what Pilate intended as a charge into a declaration. Have you ever seen God use something meant for harm or mockery and turn it into something true and good?
5. The chief priests want Pilate to change the sign from "The King of the Jews" to "This man said, I am King of the Jews." Pastor Roger suggested we do something similar — we don't mind Jesus, but we want to edit the sign. In what ways are you tempted to accept Jesus as teacher or inspiration but resist him as king?

6. Pastor Nick described the "upside down" logic of the world's kingdoms: "For me to win, you must lose. For me to be rich, you must be poor. For me to have what I want, you must lose what you need." Where do you see this logic operating in your own life or community? Where do you participate in it, even unconsciously? Where is God calling you to repent (change your mind and direction)?
7. Pastor Nick connected the crucifixion to Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 1:27–28, that God chose what is foolish, weak, low, and despised to reduce to nothing the things that are. How does this challenge the values our culture — and sometimes our church — hold most dear?
8. As we enter Holy Week, what is one step you can take to stay with Jesus all the way to the cross and not skip ahead to Easter? Is there a practice, a conversation, a moment of silence, or an act of service that would help you remain present to what this week means? (One suggestion: read a chapter a day from John 13 on Palm Sunday to John 20 on Easter).

3/22/26

“Naming the Powers”

With Him All the Way

John 19: 1-16

1. In John 19: 1-16, what actions do the soldiers take toward Jesus?
What stands out about the way they mock him?
2. Why do you think Pontius Pilate repeatedly brings Jesus before the crowd? What seems to be Pilate’s goal?
3. The soldiers dress Jesus in a purple robe and crown him with thorns. What kind of “king” are they pretending He is?
4. What accusations do the religious leaders bring against Jesus?
Why do they say He must die?
5. What does this passage reveal about the nature of power - especially the difference between earthly authority and divine authority?
6. Jesus tells Pilate that his authority was “given from above.” What does this say about God’s sovereignty even in the face of injustice?
7. In what ways do people still reject Jesus when He doesn’t fit their expectations of power or leadership?
8. When have you felt pressure from a crowd or culture to compromise your faith? How did you respond?
9. What does it mean for us to truly acknowledge Jesus as King, not just in words but in our daily decisions?
10. How can we follow Christ “with him all the way” even when it becomes costly or unpopular?

3/15/26

"Jesus vs. Rome"

With Him All the Way

John 18:28–19:1

1. The Jewish leaders refuse to enter Pilate's headquarters because it would make them ritually unclean — even as they are delivering Jesus to be killed. Where do you see this kind of contradiction in religious people (including us!) today, where people protect the appearance of faithfulness while missing its heart?
2. Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" — a yes or no question. But Jesus responds with a question of his own. Why do you think Jesus refuses to play by Pilate's rules? What does this tell us about how Jesus engages with power? What might it look like to imitate Jesus in this?
3. Jesus says, "My kingdom is not from this world. If it were, my followers would be fighting." What is the difference between a kingdom built on taking and a kingdom built on receiving? Where do you see yourself more naturally drawn to one or the other?
4. Pastor Nick described the contrast between Rome's way — earning, striving, taking by force — and the kingdom of God, which Jesus says we must be "born into" (John 3:3–7). What does it look like practically to receive something you haven't earned? When has been a time when it was easy to accept a gift? When has been a time when it was difficult?
5. Pilate asks, "What is truth?" — and then walks away without waiting for an answer. Have you ever been close to an important truth but chosen not to stay with it? What made it easier to walk away?

6. The crowd chooses Barabbas — a violent revolutionary — over Jesus. Pastor Roger noted that we still choose "Barabbas-type solutions": anger over forgiveness, control over surrender, power over humility. Which of these substitutions is the most tempting for you as you face your life right now, and why?
7. Jesus tells Pilate, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." In a culture where truth is often treated as personal preference, how do you discern and hold to the truth of Christ without becoming rigid or dismissive of others? (Note that three people or groups of people—Jesus, the Jewish authorities, and Pilate—are all certain they are right in the passage.)
8. As we walk with Jesus through these final hours, we see him standing with quiet authority before the most powerful political figure in the region — beaten, sleepless, and alone. What does Jesus' demeanor before Pilate teach you about how to face situations where you feel powerless or alone? What difference does it make that Jesus is with us all the way?
9. Where in your life this week might God be inviting you to live more fully as a citizen of Christ's kingdom rather than by the "rules of Rome" — striving, earning, competing, and taking?

3/8/26

“Trials and Temptation”

With Him All the Way

John 18: 12-27

1. Why do you think Jesus is taken first to Annas before Caiaphas? What does this tell us about power and influence behind the scenes?
2. What accusations are brought against Jesus? How does he respond to the questioning?
3. Compare Jesus' bold, public answer in verses 20-21 with Peter's private denials in verses 17, 25, and 27. What stands out?
4. What role does fear appear to play in Peter's responses? Isn't there some bravery in Peter? (Only Peter and John stayed with Jesus. All the other disciples fled).
5. What contrasts do you see between:
 - Jesus inside the house and Peter outside in the courtyard?
 - Jesus under interrogation and Peter under casual questioning?
 - Jesus standing firm and Peter shrinking back?
6. How does Jesus model integrity under pressure? How do you handle stress and pressure?
7. Peter had earlier promised loyalty to Jesus (John 13:37). What changed between the Upper Room and the Courtyard?
8. How can we remain consistent in our witness when we are under duress or attack?
9. Even as Peter fails, Jesus remains faithful. What does that teach us about the nature of God?
10. What hope does this story offer to someone who feels they have denied or failed Jesus?

3/1/26

“Light in the Darkness”

With Him All the Way

Jn 18:1-11

1. Are you observing Lent this year? Even if not formally observing it, how are you growing in your determination to walk with Jesus all the way to the Cross and the Resurrection?
2. Read John 18:1-11 aloud. For readers and hearers, imagine the sounds, sights, and other senses that might have been present or which are directly in the text. What do you notice with your senses?
3. John 18 tells us that Jesus left the city of Jerusalem “to a place where there was a garden,” which we know as the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives to the east of Jerusalem. If you’re able to, look this up on a map in order to orient yourself to the Biblical geography. (Group leaders: [this](#) might be helpful. Note that it brings together information from all four Gospels.)
4. The place Jesus went was already important in the history of Israel. Read 2 Samuel 15:10-14, 23, 30 to learn why. Why is it important that in order to understand Jesus we must understand his connection to David?
5. John 18:4 tells us that before the events unfold Jesus already knows what is going to happen. Why does John believe that’s important for us to know?
6. What is the significance of Jesus saying “I Am” in v. 6? (Read Exodus 3:13-15 to help you understand. In the Gospel of John also look at 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, and 15:1.)

7. If you had been present to arrest Jesus, then knocked off your feet, how would you have responded?
8. What is the difference between Judas/soldiers/Jewish leaders/Roman leaders causing Jesus' death and Jesus handing himself over according to the Father's will? What might you have said before a close reading of John today? Has your answer changed? Why or why not? (BONUS: For further conversation, look to the parallel narratives in the other three Gospels: Mt. 26:47-56; Mk. 14:43-52; Lk 22:47-53.)
9. Are there places in your life where you wish the light of Christ were brighter than it seems? How might Jesus being arrested in darkness help you seek in your life a different kind of illumination as evidence of Christ's presence?

With Him All the Way

Jesus calls saying, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Over these six weeks of Lent, we will focus on the final hours of Jesus’ life in the Gospel of John, as Jesus teaches us how he desires us to stay with him, all the way to the cross... and beyond.

February 22, 2026

Theme: Jesus our Intercessor

Scripture: John 17 (selected verses)

1. Have you ever known someone was praying specifically for you? How did that affect you?
2. What stands out to you emotionally about Jesus praying the night before his crucifixion?
3. In verses 1-5, what does Jesus reveal about his relationship with the Father?
4. What does Jesus pray for the disciples in verses 6-19? What surprises you about what he does not pray for?
5. Why do you think Jesus says, “I am not asking you to take them out of the world” (v.15)?
6. In verses 20-26, what does it mean to you personally that Jesus prayed for future believers?
7. What does this chapter teach us about Jesus as our intercessor?
8. How is knowing that Jesus prays for you different from simply believing he loves you?
9. Where in your life right now do you need to remember that Christ is praying for you?
10. If we are meant to live out what Jesus prayed, which part of his prayer challenges you the most?