

March 20 | Sunday

Gospel of John - Jesus' Arrest, Trial & Crucifixion



Note: this week's selections are longer than usual to support the goal of reading through the book of John. Grab an extra cup of coffee and see how far you can get!

21 | Mon – Peter's "I am not!" | Read [John 18:1-27](#)

Contrast Jesus' response to the soldiers looking to arrest him - I AM HE - with Peter's answer to the servant identifying him as Jesus' disciple - I AM NOT. Earlier that evening, Peter had boldly stated that he would die for Jesus but hours later, he could not even admit to knowing the man. Have you experienced this difficulty in your life? Admitting "I am not able" can be the beginning of a wonderful new connection with Jesus, the I AM!

22 | Tue – Choices | Read [John 18:28-40](#)

Kingdoms seem foreign to us who live in a democracy; we have freedom to make choices. But the Jews were a conquered people and Jesus faced a Roman governor who had the power to execute or to set Him free. When given a choice, the Jewish leaders picked a criminal over the Son of God, Pilate chose to bow to pressure, and Jesus chose to speak the truth. When you are facing your own choices, whose example will you follow?

23 | Wed – "Where are you from?" | Read [John 19:1-12](#)

Pilate's question came after learning that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Because the Romans believed in many gods, Pilate got very serious as he considered that this man really might be a god in human form. Do people ever ask you where you come from? Is there something about your life that points to a higher calling?

24 | Thu – "Here is your king." | Read [John 19:13-22](#)

In a sense, Jesus was not on trial here; Pilate and the Jewish people were. Everyone is ruled by someone or something. Who is your 'king'? Are you in charge or do you bow to another? It is a sobering thought when we realize that Jesus is not our 'king' because we give that power to another person, job, hobby, entertainment, or even good works.

25 | Fri – "It is completed." | Read [John 19:23-30](#)

John records Jesus' final words: "It is finished." This is not an exhausted man giving up, but as the Greek word "*tetelestai*" denotes, it is a shout of victory which announces the battle has been won, a mission has been accomplished. Death did not take Jesus; He actively let go of His life...on purpose...for you and me. There was no other way to accomplish the goal of having us with Him in eternity. Pretty amazing!

26 | Sat – Shades of Genesis | Read [John 19:31-42](#)

In Genesis, human life began in a garden and it is where sin ripped us apart from God. Jesus spent his last hours praying in a garden. He was laid to rest in a garden tomb. Could God be telling us He took on flesh to fix what happened in the garden? Saturday was a dark day; Jesus' death was so final. Have you ever been in such a dark place that all hope vanished? Maybe you are in such a place right now but, hang on, Easter is coming!

March 27 | Sun – Resurrection of the King



Hastings United Methodist Church