



## TEXT SUMMARY

Someone once said that each Gospel account of the life of Jesus is the story of the last week before His death and resurrection, preceded by an extended introduction. It is as if the narrative slows down and zooms in when we get to that last week. In our text, [John 18:28-19:42](#), we see the heart of that final narrative: Jesus's trial before Pilate and His crucifixion.

## **INTRODUCTION (observation):**

1. This text should be read aloud in one sitting to get the force of John's language and descriptions. If you are alone, read it aloud; if you are in a group, divide the text into sections (indicated by the ESV subheads) and take turns reading it aloud.  
Don't hurry through this; take time to allow the power of John's simple words to sink in and disrupt your soul.
2. If you've been in church for most of your life, this story is very familiar, and our eyes can glaze over when we read familiar words. But there are always details that emerge when you take time to read slowly and carefully. What did you notice this time?

## **DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):**

There's an undertone of irony in this text: Jesus was the only one involved who understood what was happening. What did the other participants think was happening?

- Jesus's followers
- The corrupt Jewish leaders
- Pilate and the Roman soldiers who carried out his orders



## **SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):**

When God warned our First Parents, Adam and Eve, about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, He told them that in the day that they ate of it, they "would surely die." They had no way to understand what "die" would mean; all they knew is that their Creator had given them that admonishment.

When they ignored His warning, they began to learn by experience what it means to “die.” They immediately experienced guilt and shame for the first time in human history; and when He came to them, He explained further the implications of the dying they had brought into the world: the alienation, frustration, and suffering they would now know in childbirth and in their dealings with nature, with one another, and with work itself. All we’ve done since then is repeat the cycle: more rebellion leading to more suffering. Before Jesus, our situation was truly hopeless.

Only Jesus could have done what He did on our behalf: live the blameless life we could never live and go through the agony of death in our stead. And of all His agonies, surely the worst was His separation from the Father, which He endured to spare us from our own well-earned alienation from God.

## How are we to respond to such a generous gift?

Take a few moments to quiet your heart and reflect on His sufferings.

- Thank our Father for His kindness in giving up His Son.
- And thank Jesus for His kindness in going through our death.