

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.

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?

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

[illegible]

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

[illegible]