

# John's Passion Narrative

John 18:1-19:42 or John 19:1-37

*Narrator*

*Jesus*

*Speaker: Maid, Peter, Officer, Servant, Pilate, People*

## **Narrator:**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall, came forward and said to them,

## **Jesus:**

Whom do you seek

## **Narrator:**

They answered him,

## **People:**

Jesus of Nazareth.

## **Narrator:**

Jesus said to them,

## **Jesus:**

Here I am.

## **Narrator:**

Judas, who betrayed Jesus was standing with them. 'When Jesus said to them, "Here I am," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again Jesus asked them

**Jesus:**

Whom do you seek?,

**Narrator:**

And they said,

**People:**

Jesus of Nazareth

**Narrator:**

Jesus answered,

**Jesus:**

I told you here I am; so, if you seek me, let these others go.

**Narrator:**

This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken, "Of those whom you gave me I lost not one. Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off

his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

**Jesus:**

Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?

**Narrator:**

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Judeans seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Judeans that it was expedient that one person should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Being known to the high priest, that disciple entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the

door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who kept the door, and brought Peter in. The maid who kept the door said to Peter,

**Maid:**

Are not you also one of this man's disciples?

**Narrator:**

He said,

**Peter:**

I am not.

**Narrator:**

Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. and they were standing and warming themselves Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered the high priest,

**Jesus:**

I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jewish people come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said.

**Narrator:**

When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

**Officer:**

Is that how you answer the high priest?

**Narrator:**

Jesus answered the officer,

**Jesus:**

If I have spoken wrongly bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

**Narrator:**

Annas then sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to Peter,

**People:**

Are not you also one of his disciples?

**Narrator:**

He denied it and said,

**Peter:**

I am not.

**Narrator:**

One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

**Servant:**

Did I not see you in the garden with him?

**Narrator:**

Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was early. 'They themselves did not enter praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

**Pilate:**

What accusation do you bring against this man?

**Narrator:**

They answered Pilate,

**People:**

If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over.

**Narrator:**

Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:**

Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

**Narrator:**

The Judeans said to him,

**People:**

It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.

**Narrator:**

This was to fulfil the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, saying,

**Pilate:**

Are you the King of the Jewish people?

**Narrator :**

Jesus answered,

**Jesus:**

Do you say this of your own account, or did other say it to you about me?

**Narrator:**

Pilate answered,

**Pilate:**

Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?

**Narrator:**

Jesus answered,

**Jesus:**

My dominion is not of this world; if my dominion were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Judeans; but my dominion is not from the world.

**Narrator:**

Pilate said to him,

**Pilate:**

So you are a king?

**Narrator:**

Jesus answered,

**Jesus:**

You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.

**Narrator:**

Pilate said to Jesus,

**Pilate:**

What is truth?

**Narrator:**

Having said this, Pilate went out to the Judeans again, and told them,

**Pilate:**

I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one person for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jewish people?

**Narrator:**

They cried out again,

**People:**

Not this man, but Barabbas!

**Narrator:**

Now Barabbas was a robber.

‘Then Pilate took Jesus and scourges him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to Jesus saying,

**People:**

Hail, King of the Jews!

**Narrator:**

and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them,

**Pilate:**

See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him.

**Narrator:**

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:**

Behold the man!

**Narrator:**

When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,

**People:**

Crucify him, crucify him!

**Narrator:**

Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:**

Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.

**Narrator:**

The Judeans answered him

**People:**

We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.

**Narrator:**

When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus,

**Pilate:**

Where are you from?

**Narrator:**

But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

**Pilate:**

You will not speak to me? Do you know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?

**Narrator:**

Jesus answered him,

**Jesus:**

You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who delivered me to you has the greater sin.

**Narrator:**

Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the Judeans cried out,

**People:**

If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.

**Narrator:**

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Judeans,

**Pilate:**

Behold your King!

**Narrator:**

They cried out,

**People:**

Away with him away with him, crucify him!

**Narrator:**

Pilate said to them,

**Pilate:**

Shall I crucify your king?

**Narrator:**

The chief priests answered,

**People:**

We have no king but Caesar

**Narrator:**

Then he handed him over to be crucified.

So they took Jesus and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. There they crucified Jesus, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Judeans read this title, for the place where Jesus was near the city; and it was Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jewish people then said to Pilate,

**People:**

Do not write, "The King of the Jews," but, This man said, I am King of the Jews."

**Narrator:**

Pilate answered.

**Pilate:**

What I have written I have written.

**Narrator:**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But his tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom: so they said to one another,

**People:**

Let us not bear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.

**Narrator:**

This was to fulfil the scripture,

They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the

disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother,

**Jesus:**

Woman, behold your son!

**Narrator:**

Then he said to the disciples, Behold, your mother!

**Narrator:**

And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture),

**Jesus:**

I thirst.

**Narrator:**

A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. Having received the vinegar, Jesus said,

**Jesus:**

It is finished;

**Narrator:**

and he bowed head gave over the spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Judeans asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pieced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. One who saw it whose testimony is true, and who knows that he tells the truth - has borne witness that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." And, again another scripture says, "They shall look upon the one whom they have pierced."

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Judeans, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So Joseph came and took away Jesus' body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to Jesus

by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.