

Knowing Jesus as Crucified
John 19 Discussion Questions
5/21/17

1. In the sermon, it was said the crucifixion (and the resurrection) of Jesus is the heart of the matter when it comes to the Christian faith. Do most Christians seem to recognize this? What are other aspects of the Christian faith (that might be good things) that we might emphasize more than the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?
2. The cross is an instrument of death. Yet we wear crosses and put them up as decorations. Are we right to celebrate the cross? Is it possible that in celebrating the cross we have forgotten it is an instrument of torture and death? How should we balance this?
3. Why is John **19:15** an extreme low point for the Jewish leadership?
4. Are there any particular aspects of the crucifixion that are especially difficult for you to consider?
5. John records Jesus speaking to His mother and to the disciple whom he loved (**vv.26-27**). What do we learn from this?
6. The second recorded saying in John of Jesus from the cross is "I thirst" (**v.28**). What do we learn from this?
7. The third recorded saying of Jesus is "it is finished" (**v.30**). What do we learn from this?
8. It was suggested that the "problem of pain" often prevents people from believing in Christianity, but some people believe in Christianity because of the problem of pain. Does the presence of pain and suffering and death lead you to believe in Christianity or does it cause you to doubt? How does this relate to the issue of the cross?
9. Have you ever experienced rejection, pain, and maybe even death of a loved one but been encouraged by going to Jesus knowing He has experienced these things and He sympathizes?
10. We learn from **John 19:10-11** that God is in control even as Jesus is dying. What are some other ways we know God is in control in these events?
11. Are you encouraged by the presence of so many examples of Scripture being fulfilled (**John 19:24, 28, 36, 37**). Explain. Why do you think there are so many examples given in this one chapter?
12. If God is in control during these events and even planned this (**see Acts 2:23**), then what is the ultimate purpose of these events? How does **John 19:30** relate to this purpose?
13. Why is it essential we emphasize that God is in control and punishing His Son at the cross? What happens if we ignore this? Do you think most Christians understand the meaning and significance of this? How would you explain to someone that this is the heart of the Christian faith?
14. What does it look like for a person truly to cling to and cherish the cross?