"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"

The Gospel of John

John 19:16b–37

Read John 19:16b–37.

1. Jesus has been up all night, questioned, beaten, and viciously flogged. What is he now forced to do? (v. 17)

2. In verse 18 John very simply states that they crucified Jesus. How does this method of execution fulfill the way Jesus has already spoken of his death? (Jn. 8:28; 12:32–33)

3. John spends a lot of time (four verses) discussing the sign that bears the official "charge" against Jesus. Clearly the subject is important to him.
   a. What does the sign say? (v. 19)

   b. Through this sign, how does Pilate unknowingly proclaim what has already been prophesied about Jesus? (Is. 9:6-7; Lk. 1:30-33)

   c. The sign is written in three languages: Aramaic, the everyday language spoken by Jews; Latin, the official language of the Roman Empire; and Greek, the main language of trade and international communication. How does the sign testify to the truth of Caiaphas' prophecy? (Jn. 11:49-52)

4. How does Jesus provide for his mother from the cross? (vv. 26–27)

   What do you think this says about him?

5. The last words of Jesus that John records are, "It is finished" (v. 30)—or better, "It is *accomplished!*"[1] These simple words carry a great deal of weight. What has Jesus finished or accomplished?
   a. Jn. 4:34; 17:4; Phil. 2:8 (📖* Rom. 5:19)

   b. Rom. 3:21–25a; Heb. 9:25–28; 10:10

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

[1] George R. Beasley-Murray, *John*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 352.

6. Read verse 30 again. What phrase does John use to describe Jesus' death?

   Compare this with John 10:17–18. Putting these verses together, what can you say about Jesus' death?

7. What major goal of his gospel does John bring up again here, in his account of this central event? (v. 35; Jn. 20:30–31; 🕮 3:14–18)

8. What evidence does John offer his readers so that they will believe in Jesus?
   a. v. 35a (🕮 Jn. 1:32–34; 21:24)

   b. vv. 24b, 28, 36a

9. In his account of Jesus' death, John highlights no fewer than four ways in which Jesus' death fulfills Old Testament prophecy. Note how these Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in John 19.
   a. Ps. 22:18; Jn. 19:23–24

   b. Ps. 69:21; Jn. 19:28-29

   c. Ps. 34:20; Jn. 19:33, 36 (🕮 See instructions for the Passover lamb in Ex. 12:46; compare 1 Cor. 5:7b.)

   d. Zech. 12:10; Jn. 19:34, 37

10. If one focused only on the *actions* in this passage, the picture would seem bleak: Pilate hands Jesus over to the soldiers; they crucify him; they stab him to make sure he is dead. In short, Jesus' death would look like a victory for the Jewish religious leaders, the ruthless Romans, and "the prince of this world" (Jn. 16:11).
    a. How should seeing the fulfillment of Scripture give John's readers hope that Jesus' death is not a mere senseless tragedy?

    b. How does Jesus see his death? (Jn. 12:23; 17:1)

11. How does Jesus' death on the cross intersect with your daily life? *Does* it intersect with your daily life? You may want to consider Hebrews 12:1-3.