

- e) Describe your reaction to a startling truth God made known to you. What was this truth? Did you deny or mock this revelation? Did you mourn or rejoice? What can you do to avoid being a pawn or mere bystander of the truth and instead be an instrument of God's will?
3. Consider the difference between Pilate's response to the chief priests' protests in John 19:22 and his responses to them in John 18:29-19:16 (last lesson). Comment on how God used Pilate's strong and weak moments to accomplish His will.
4. a) Describe the soldiers' actions and focus in John 19:23-24.
- b) What do you **think** they would have noticed if they stopped to look at Jesus?
- c) Describe events or tasks in which your focus becomes so narrow that you realize you miss blessings from the Lord. What strategy or plan can you implement now that will help prevent you from missing out in the future?

5. a) Jesus “saw his mother.” What do you **think** Jesus’ mother was thinking and feeling at the foot of the cross?
- b) What do you **think** Jesus’ intentions were in arranging this new family relationship between His mother and John?
6. a) What was offered to Jesus in John 19:29?
- b) In John 19:30, what did Jesus do with this “offering”?
- c) Write a prayer describing what you feel when you reflect on the quality and quantity of what you offer to the Lord and how He receives it.
7. a) What did Jesus say in John 19:30 and to what (do you **think**) is Jesus referring?
- b) What happened after Jesus finished speaking in John 19:30? Why? Remember John 10:17–18 and John 14:28–31.
- c) Why did Jesus have to suffer and die? (See Isaiah 53:10–12, John 15:12–17 and John 17:1–5 for reminders).

8. a) Why do you think the cross has become such an important symbol for followers of Jesus Christ?
- b) What personal feelings or experiences does meditating upon Jesus' work on the cross bring up for you?

Going deeper:

Read Psalm 22 and Matthew 27:45-56. Draw parallels between the Psalm and Jesus' experience on the cross. Ask Jesus to give you insight into what He was thinking about you while on the cross.