



That You May believe: The Betrayal and Crucifixion

Ben Hyett – 29th March 2026 ([watch talk here](#))

As we continue our journey through John's Gospel, Ben focused on the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and invited us to reflect on the wonder and beauty of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

In Chapters 18 and 19, we see the darkness of the human heart revealed in the events surrounding Jesus' death. Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, the actions of the Jewish leaders, and Pilate's submission to the crowds demonstrate the greed, anger, fear, pride, and self-interest that motivated their actions. Yet woven through this darkness is the astonishing thread of God's divine plan, shining with life and hope. Through the fulfilment of numerous prophecies, we see God's purposes unfolding, and Jesus knowingly gives himself up (John 18:4; John 13:38; Psalm 22:16–19).

Through his crucifixion, Jesus willingly bears our sins in an extraordinary act of self-sacrificial love. Because of his sacrifice, we are made right in God's eyes—holy and blameless—a gift we receive by grace through faith.

Reflect and discuss

What stood out to you from Ben's talk? Perhaps it was the darkness in human hearts, seeing God's sovereign plan transpire in the midst of apparent chaos, or the beauty of Jesus' sacrifice. Read the key verses (John 19:1-6 & 16-24) and reflect on these themes.

Share & Pray

Consider again the sacrifice that Jesus has made. **How is God inviting you to respond?** As Ben suggested, we may want to give thanks, lay something on our conscious at the foot of the cross, release forgiveness or bring our doubts and ask for encouragement and faith. Spend time in smaller groups sharing your responses and praying for one another.

Activate

Read John 18–19 slowly, perhaps over several days. Notice the details. Let the weight and wonder of Jesus' sacrifice sink in. Consider journaling what stands out.

Prepare to share your experience in a future Small Group meeting.