



Thursday, April 6

Breathe: Calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in... and out.

As you read the passage today, reflect on the significance of the difference between what Pilate wrote and what the Jewish leaders wanted him to write.

John 19:16b-24 *The Message*

¹⁶⁻¹⁹ Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified.

They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill (the name in Hebrew is *Golgotha*), where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read:

JESUS THE NAZARENE
THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁰⁻²¹ Many of the Jews read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests objected. “Don’t write,” they said to Pilate, “‘The King of the Jews.’ Make it, ‘This man said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’””

²² Pilate said, “What I’ve written, I’ve written.”

²³⁻²⁴ When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other, "Let's not tear it up. Let's throw dice to see who gets it." This confirmed the Scripture that said, "They divided up my clothes among them and threw dice for my coat." (The soldiers validated the Scriptures!)

Prayer: Lord, Thank you for your work on the cross. We are humbled by your willingness to die for us. May we be changed by your sacrifice. Amen.