

Read: The wounds of Jesus now intensify—physical and emotional. Read Mark 14: 53, 55-65, Matthew 27:3-10. Imagine the heart of Jesus in these moments as he receives such shaming assaults. Consider the pain of being the betrayer, overwhelmed with hopeless regret.

Sometimes passages are so familiar to us that we lose the incredible scope and breadth of what they say. Read <u>John 3:13-17</u> as if you've never heard this before. What would it have been like to have been a religious leader, sneaking in to see Jesus and then hearing these words?

Think: Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

Rest: Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

You will understand that spitting scene that night when God lets you see your own heart.

Alexander Whyte