

Holy Week and God's Plan of Salvation

Good Friday: The Lamb of God Dies for Our Sins

On Good Friday, the great exchange happened. Jesus was perfect, but He suffered death and hell. We are sinners, but we go free, not punished. Everything before Good Friday was leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Everything after looked back to Good Friday and Easter. This is when God's Plan of Salvation became His work in action. Here are some questions to think about while we study.

1. Why was Jesus quiet? Why didn't He defend Himself?
2. What did the Jewish leaders think about Jesus when He died?
3. What does it mean for you that God the Father left Jesus on the cross?

Jesus in Front of Pontius Pilate

Read Matthew 27:11-14 (1251). Pontius Pilate asked Jesus a simple question: "Are you the king of the Jews?" What did Jesus answer?

The Jewish leaders told Pilate many lies about Jesus, but Jesus answered nothing. Why would Jesus answer Pilate's question, but He says nothing to correct the Jews? Read Isaiah 53:7 (928).

Read Matthew 27:15-26 (1251). What was the custom (tradition) that the governor (Pilate) did every year for the Jews (verse 15)?

Pilate gave the people a choice: free Barabbas, or free Jesus. What did the Jews say to do with Barabbas? With Jesus?

Jesus is the Son of God the Father. The name "Barabbas" means "Son of the father." Which son deserved to die? Which son deserved to go free? How does that show God's plan of salvation, the great exchange?

Did the crowd of people have a good reason to crucify Jesus? Why did they shout so much to crucify Jesus?

Pilate said Jesus' death was the responsibility of the crowd there. The people answered, "Let Jesus' blood be on us and on our children!" That can mean two things. First, read Psalm 51:14 (688). In the psalm, what did David say about guilt? Is that what the Jews said?

The second way Jesus' blood is on us is much better. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 (1525) and 1 John 1:7 (1534). What does Jesus' blood mean for us?

Jesus Is Crucified

Read Matthew 27:27-31 (1252). Think about everything the Jewish leaders, Pilate, the crowd, and the soldiers did to Jesus. Did Jesus still love them, or not? What does that say about God's love for us?

Read Matthew 27:32-44. Someone gave Jesus wine and gall mixed, for Jesus to drink. This was like a pain-killer, to make the crucifixion hurt a little less. Why did Jesus refuse to drink it?

When the Romans crucified someone, they often put a small sign on the cross that says why that person is getting crucified. How does the sign on Jesus' cross show the Great Exchange?

The Jewish leaders mocked Jesus. They said Jesus saved others, but could not save Himself. Is that true? Could Jesus come down if He wanted? (Read Matthew 26:53 if you want help.)

Jesus Death and Burial

Read Matthew 27:45-46 (1252). Jesus' disciples has run away. The Jews mocked Jesus. What about God the Father? Was He helping Jesus? What does this mean about His work of salvation for us?

While Jesus traveled and preached, He said one time, "No one takes away My life. I Myself give up My life." How did Jesus die? Did Jesus give up His life, or did people take-away Jesus' life?

Read Matthew 27:50-56. In the temple, there was a large curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 26:31-33). Only the High Priest could go around that curtain to the mercy seat of God, and only once a year. When Jesus died, what happened to that curtain? What does that mean for us? Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (1508).

Read Matthew 27:57-61 (1253). Who buried Jesus' body? Do you think they felt any hope that Jesus will come back? Did they understand at all what happened that day?