

151. Jesus Crucified, Died, and Buried

(Luke 23:26-43, Matthew 27:45-54, John 19:31-37, Matthew 27:57-66)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, while we study about Your suffering and death, help us remember that You did that for us. Make us trust that Your death gives us forgiveness. Make us trust that we are free from all punishment, and we are free to live with You. We pray in Your name, Amen.

Luke 23:26-31. The soldiers led Jesus away. A man named Simon from Cyrene was coming into the city from the country. The soldiers grabbed him and forced him to carry Jesus' cross. Many people followed Jesus, and many women cried and mourned for Jesus. Jesus told them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for Me. Cry for yourselves and your children. A time will happen when you will say, 'Women who have no children are blessed!' Then people will tell the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and tell the hills, 'Cover us!' People do these terrible things while the tree is green and alive. What will happen when the tree is dry?"

- It was normal in Jewish culture, when a person died or will soon die, many women cried loud for the family. What did Jesus tell those women? Why?
- Jesus said, "People do these terrible things while the tree is green and alive. What will happen when the tree is dry?" What is Jesus talking about?

Luke 23:32-34. The soldiers also led two thieves with Jesus. They all arrived at the place named "The Skull." The soldiers crucified Jesus there. They also crucified the two thieves, one on Jesus' right, one on His left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." The soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes.

- Why did Jesus ask God to forgive the people who crucified Him? What attitude did Jesus always have?
- What should be our attitude and thoughts when people do things against us?

Luke 23:35-38. People stood there and watched Jesus. Jewish leaders mocked Jesus and said, “Jesus saved other people. If He is the Christ, the one God chose, then let Jesus save Himself.” The soldiers also mocked Jesus. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.” A sign above Jesus said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

- The Jewish leaders and soldiers mocked Jesus and told Him to save Himself. Could Jesus come down from the cross? What would happen if Jesus did come down? Could we have forgiveness?

Luke 23:39-43. One thief crucified there also insulted Jesus. He said, “You are the Christ? Then save Yourself and us!” But the other thief corrected him. He said, “You should fear God! We are getting punished the same as Jesus. We deserve our punishment because we did wrong. But this man (Jesus) did nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in heaven.”

- Why did the one thief also insult Jesus when he was also dying on a cross? What does that say about our human nature?
- What did the other thief say to Jesus? Was that thief speaking from his sinful nature, or speaking from faith? What did Jesus promise him?

Matthew 27:45-49. From noon until 3 p.m., all the land was dark. Around 3 p.m., Jesus shouted, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” That means, “My God, My God, why have You left Me?” Some people standing there heard Jesus shout. They said, “Jesus is calling Elijah.” Quickly, one person ran and got a sponge. He put wine vinegar in the sponge, put the sponge on a stick, and gave it to Jesus for Him to drink. Then the people said, “Leave Jesus alone. We will see if Elijah comes to save Him.”

- Why did God the Father “leave” Jesus?

Matthew 27:50-54. Jesus shouted again with a loud voice, then He gave up His spirit and died. That moment, the curtain in the temple tore in two parts, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks broke, and graves opened. Many holy people who died now rose alive. They came out of their graves. After Jesus rose alive, those people went into Jerusalem and many people saw them. The Roman soldier captain and other people guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and everything that happened. They were afraid and said, “Truly He was God’s Son!”

- 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?
- The curtain in the temple separated the holy place and the most holy place. When Jesus died, that curtain tore from top to bottom. Who tore the curtain? What does that mean?
- Why did some people rise alive after Jesus died? (Think about what Jesus’ death and resurrection gives us.)

John 19:31-37. That Friday was the day to prepare for a special Sabbath. The Jews didn’t want the bodies on the crosses during that Sabbath. They asked Pilate to break the legs of the people on the crosses. Then after they die, take down the bodies. The soldiers went to one thief and broke his legs. Then they went to the other thief and broke his legs. They went to Jesus and saw He was already dead. The soldiers didn’t break Jesus’ legs. But one soldier stuck a spear in Jesus’ side. Blood and water flowed out together. A man saw this happen, and his witness is true. He speaks the truth so you can believe also. All these things happened to make the Bible verses happen true. One says, “Not one of His bones will get broken.” Another verse said, “They will look at the one they pierced.”

- Why did the soldiers break the thieves’ legs, but not Jesus’ legs?
- Why did one soldier stick a spear into Jesus’ side? (This question can have two correct answers.)

Matthew 27:57-61. It was almost evening. Joseph was a rich man from Arimathea, and he followed Jesus. Joseph went to Pilate and asked to have Jesus' body. Pilate said he could have the body. Joseph took Jesus' body and wrapped it with a clean linen cloth. Joseph had a new tomb for himself, cut out of rock. Joseph put Jesus' body in his own tomb and rolled a big stone to cover the entrance. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary saw what he did.

- Who buried Jesus? Where did he bury Jesus?

Matthew 27:62-66. The next day, after the day to prepare for the Sabbath, the Jewish chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate. They said, "Sir, Jesus fooled people. While He was still alive, He said, 'After three days I will rise alive again.' We want you to order that the tomb should be sealed until the third day. Otherwise, Jesus' disciples might come, steal Jesus' body, and announce that Jesus rose alive. That will be a deception worse than all others." Pilate said, "Take some guards. Guard and seal the tomb the best you can." The Jewish leaders put a seal on the rock and put guards there to watch.

- How afraid of Jesus were the Jewish leaders? What did they ask Pilate to do? Did Pilate give the command?
- Jesus rose alive from the dead. That is the best news ever! What did the Jewish leaders say about Jesus' resurrection?