

The Gospel of Matthew

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

LESSON THIRTY-ONE

MATTHEW 27:1-56

Day 1



Father, incline my heart to your word (Ps.119:36). Open the eyes of my heart to see wonderful things in your word (Ps. 119:18) Unite my heart to fear your name (Ps. 86:11) and satisfy me with your unfailing love (Ps.90:14).

- Read chapter 27
- "The four gospels each stress different nuances of the meaning of the crucifixion. Matthew...focuses on the horror of the cross, as contrasted with the sovereignty of Jesus and the victorious nature of his death..."¹ so that is where we will keep our attention as well. As you read, pray for understanding to grasp the humanity and deity of Jesus, as he willingly becomes the substitute for your death.
- What is one truth in today's passage that moves your heart to praise, thanksgiving, confession, action or love for God?

Day 2- Matthew 27:1-10

Scholar's Note: "...the Jewish authorities did not have the right to execute someone (unless they desecrated the temple), so the entire purpose of the interrogation was to find hard evidence to take to Pilate and convince him to execute Jesus."²

1. How did Judas respond to the religious leaders' condemnation of Jesus according to verses 3-5?

For Discussion: How is Judas' remorse different from repentance?

Digging Deeper: When we change our minds only after it is too late like Judas did, we have a path back to God because of Jesus' death and resurrection. We don't have to remain separated from him because of our sin. How do the following scriptures help us understand the path of repentance?

2 Corinthians 7:10 For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. (NLT)

2 Timothy 2:25b-26 God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Jeremiah 15:19a This is how the LORD responds: "If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. (NLT)

Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.



Jesus I thank you that because of your death, no sin is outside your mercy and forgiveness! How could I ever say your death was not enough to cover a certain sin?

2. *See to it yourself*, in verse 4 is a way of saying, *it's your responsibility*. What is so reprehensible about the leaders' attitude?

-What is ironic about the religious leaders concerns in 4-7?

Old Testament Ties

Verse 9 is the last of the ten fulfillment formula passages Matthew has used throughout the book to show how the Old Testament points to Jesus as its' ultimate fulfillment. Matthew refers to Zechariah 11:12-13 as well as to Jeremiah's acted out parable in Jeremiah 19. One commentator says it is, 'fulfillment' in verbal detail from Zechariah but 'fulfillment' in thematic substance from Jeremiah."³

- What does the fact that this whole scene with the silver and the field is a fulfillment tell us?

Picture and Ponder: Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave. "Christ's life was valued only at the level of a slave, and Judas has betrayed him for that paltry sum."⁴

Day 3- Matthew 27:11-26

3. Pilate doesn't care about blasphemy; where does his concern lie according to verse 11?

Scholar's Note: "Jesus' "so you say" is the third time Jesus has given this evasive answer (26:25, 64), which agrees with the statement but shows there are important differences."⁵

4. From the information in verses 14-18, what does Pilate's attitude toward Jesus seem to be?

-What was obvious to Pilate in verse 18?



What kinds of evil or bad fruit has envy produced in your life?

5. How does God give Pilate a clear chance to do the right thing in verse 19?

-What truth does his wife relay to him?

6. What further evil do the "shepherds of Israel" commit in verse 20?

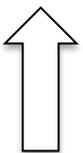
-What tactics do you think they might have used to persuade them?

Picture and Ponder: "The irony of the scene is great, especially since the insurrectionist's name was "Jesus Barabbas." The crowd considers two men named "Jesus" (a name meaning "God saves"), with both being "the son of the father" (the meaning of Bar Abbas). However, the kind of salvation each one offers is quite different: temporal deliverance by the sword vs. eternal deliverance by a Savior."⁶

7. What was the crowd's answer to Pilate's question in verse 23?

8. How would you describe Pilate in verse 24?

- What root sins held Pilate back from doing the right thing?



God, help me to fear displeasing you more than I fear the displeasure of others. Strengthen me to stand with courage and faith in times of testing.

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses from Acts and answer the questions.

Day 4- Matthew 27:26-44

10. What is so ironic about the soldier's mockery of Jesus in 27-31?

Digging Deeper: Verses 26-44 are hard to read. It's hard to imagine that kind of physical suffering and we will probably not ever have to endure anything like that. Reading about Jesus' physical and emotional suffering along with the verses from Peter, what do you learn about your own suffering, sin and healing?

1 Peter 2:21-25 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Scholar's Note: "To the Romans, [crucifixion] was so degrading that a Roman citizen could only be crucified by direct edict of Caesar. To the Jews, crucifixion meant that the person was outside the covenant people; they demanded that crucifixions take place outside the walls of Jerusalem (imagery of the OT scapegoat)." So Jesus was crucified on the main road coming into Jerusalem. "The Romans always executed criminals on major thoroughfares as a warning to the citizens." ⁷

For Discussion: Simon of Cyrene, experienced *take up your cross and follow me* (Matt. 16:24) in a unique way. What do you imagine might have been going through his mind?

Scholar's Note: Mark tells us in his gospel that Simon of Cyrene (modern day Libya) was the father of Alexander and Rufus (Mk. 15:21). This mention lets us know that Alexander and Rufus were well known to the early church. Rufus is also mentioned in Romans 16:13. Jesus must have made quite an impression on the man who carried his cross!

11. What irony do you find in the cruel mockery of each of these groups of people in verses 33-44?

Roman soldiers-

Passersby-

Religious leaders-

Two criminals-

Scholar's Note: "The two criminals were undoubtedly insurrectionists like Barabbas; he was the leader, and Jesus was crucified in the central position in his place. It was virtually the only crime punishable this way."⁸



The soldiers mocked Jesus as king and Pilate mocked the Jews with the sign stating in three languages that Jesus was king of the Jews. They were ignorant of the fact that they were actually crucifying the Eternal King of the world. The religious leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy, while they blasphemed God to his face as he suffered. Yet Jesus allowed it, humbling himself to the point of death, even death on a cross so that he could bear all our sin. Linger over this portion of the words of Isaiah about Jesus, the Suffering Servant.

*Isaiah 53:3-6 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;*

*yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;*

*and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*



Jesus, there are no words of gratitude that match the depth of your gift to me, but I praise you and thank you and love you for what you've done for me.

Day 5- Matthew 27:45-66

For Discussion: What do you think was the significance of the darkness that came over the land from noon to 3 pm?

12. As Jesus bore our sins on the cross what did he experience according to verse 46?

-What impact does this make on you?

Picture and Ponder: " [Jesus] has become the sin offering, and at this dark moment God must turn away from sin."⁹

Digging Deeper: In the verse below how does Paul help us understand what happened on the cross when Jesus died?

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



A great exchange took place on the cross—Jesus took our sin and gave us his righteousness. In doing this he made it possible for those who believe and surrender to him to have an eternal and joyous relationship with God. Have you given your life to Jesus? You can take part in this exchange now—repent of your sins and accept his gift of righteousness and enter into God's kingdom family.

Old Testament Ties

When Jesus cries out in agony as he bears our sin and experiences the wrath of God in our place, he quotes directly from Psalm 22 (below), a psalm of David that points to Jesus the Messiah.

- Highlight the part in this psalm that shows us that even as he was forsaken by God, he still trusted God.

*Psalm 22:1-8, 14-19, 22-24 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.
Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
"He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"*

*...I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a
potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat
over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*

*...I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise
you: You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of
Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not
hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.*



As God withdraws his presence completely and pours out his wrath on sin, all goodness, comfort and hope is gone and there remains only wrath and torment. This is what Jesus agonized over in the garden. Jesus, the Word, who was with God in the beginning, had never been separated from God. This is partly what hell is like—the complete absence of God. We only *feel* forsaken by God at times; Jesus actually was forsaken by God. He was forsaken for our sake so that we have the utmost reassurance that we are never forsaken.

- ❖ Because Jesus was truly forsaken by God for a time, we will never be forsaken. What comfort and hope can you draw from this during those times when you don't have a sense of God's presence?

13. How is Jesus' control of the events of his life further shown in verse 50?

14. What physical effects took place on the earth when Jesus died according to verse 51?

Digging Deeper: The curtain in the temple separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies. How do the passages from Hebrews help us understand the significance of God tearing the curtain at the death of Jesus?

Hebrews 9:7-8, 12⁷ But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. ⁸ By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use... With [Jesus'] own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. (NLT)

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters^f we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. (NLT)

For Discussion: When Jesus rose from the dead and broke the power of death for those united to him, God gave a foretaste of the glory to come by raising some of his people and having them go into Jerusalem and appear to many! Which Old Testament saint would you liked to have seen and why? (There were probably many saints whose names we don't know who were not named in the Bible as well.)

15. What came of the supernatural witness that God provided at the death of Jesus according to verse 54?

16. In an ancient society where women were marginalized, Jesus and the gospels writers gave women a place of prominence. What were the women who had been following and serving Jesus doing now according to verse 55?

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here. How will this truth impact the way you think and act?

¹ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 27387-27388). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

² Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 26835-26838). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

³ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 26952-26953). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 26968-26969). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 26997-26999). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 27049-27052). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁷ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 27378-27380). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 27526-27527). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.

⁹ Osborne, Grant R.. Matthew (Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on The New Testament series Book 1) (Kindle Locations 27633-27634). Zondervan Academic. Kindle Edition.