

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus is Crucified and Buried

Matthew 27:27-66

Opening

Gathering: For what reasons might someone give their life for another?

Today's Focus: Jesus was painfully executed as a despised criminal in order to take the suffering and death we deserve for our sins.

Key Verses: *When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him.* Luke 23:33

When Jesus cried out in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed "Surely He was the Son of God!" Matthew 27:50, 54

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Guilty King (*Luke 23:1-24*)

What did the Jewish leaders want to do about Jesus and why?

John 11:47-50, 53

What crime did Jesus commit that gave the leaders an excuse to arrest and execute Him?

Matthew 26:59-60a

What crime did they finally charge Jesus with?

Luke 23:1-3

Did the governor agree that Jesus was a threat and should be punished?

Luke 23:13-16

Did Pilate easily give in to the Jews when they didn't accept his offer?

Luke 23:20-24

Why did Pilate give in? Because he finally saw Jesus as a threat to Caesar?

Mark 15:15

The Condemned King (*John 19:19-22; Matthew 27:27-31*)

What did Pilate post as Jesus' crime?

John 19:19-20

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Did anyone have any trouble with this sign?

John 19:21

After letting in to the Jews by executing Jesus, did Pilate again let in and change the sign?

John 19:22

Now that He was guilty of being a king, how was Jesus treated like a king?

Matthew 27:27-29

How did the soldiers show their allegiance to Rome and against one who would be king?

Matthew 27:30-31

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The King's Procession to Calvary (*John 19:17-18*)

Crucifixions began with a procession of the criminals along *The Way of Sorrows (Via Dolorosa)*

Wound through town as a regular reminder and deterrent to others

Led to *The Place of the Skull - Golgotha* (Aramaic), *Kranion* (Greek), *Calvaria* (Latin)

Shape of a skull, only 18 feet high - No such thing as *Mount Calvary*

Soldiers in front of each criminal carried a sign identifying the crime

The condemned would have first been beaten and then would carry his own cross

Beating helped weaken the body to speed death (Could take days for a man to die)

Did Jesus' crucifixion begin any differently since He was a special case?

John 19:17-18

Being fully God, was Jesus able to stand up to His beatings with super-human strength?

Mark 15:21

Did Simon's experience have any impact on him?

Acts 19:33

Romans 16:13

The King's Subjects (*Luke 23:26-31*)

Did any of Jesus' followers follow His procession to Calvary?

Luke 23:27

Did Jesus take comfort in their concern for Him?

Luke 23:28-31

Why did Jesus quote Hosea 10:8 and say these women should wish they were childless?

Matthew 24:1-2

What did Jesus mean about green and dry trees (Ezekiel 20:47)?

John 18:38; 19:16

Crucifixion

Crucifixion was the most disgraceful and cruelest form of execution

Reserved for escaped slaves and the worst criminals, never on a Roman citizen

Four or five different crosses were used: t, T, +, X and square (Jesus was on t or T)

Person was laid on the cross on the ground and nailed &/or tied by hands & feet to the cross

Clothes were removed and given to guards for their services

Jews were allowed to wear loincloth for decency sake

Cross was raised and the person was hung by his arms, Feet were only 1-2 feet above the ground

A wooden or iron stake served as a seat to keep nails from ripping through hands

Wine drugged with gall (bitter & poisonous herb) offered to sedate and reduce pain

When a person is hung by the hands, blood sinks to lower parts of body

Within 6-12 minutes, blood pressure drops in half and pulse rate doubles

Crucified people would die within 2-3 days by heart failure or asphyxiation

Crucifixion was sometimes sped up by breaking legs or building a fire (suffocation)

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The King is Crucified (*Luke 23:32-34*)

Was a separate procession held for each criminal or were they brought to Calvary together?

Luke 23:32-33

Did Jesus get any of the pain-killing mixture to make it easier to take the world's punishment?

Matthew 27:34

How did Jesus feel towards the soldiers who had beat and crucified Him?

Luke 23:34

Did the soldiers get Jesus' clothes or did one of His followers take them?

John 19:23

Typical wardrobe - outer robe, sash, sandals, turban or headdress, tunic (undergarment)

What did they do with Jesus' nice undergarment and why was this significant?

John 19:24

The King is Mocked (*Matthew 27:39-44*)

What kind of sympathy did Jesus get from people who passed by and recognized Him?

Matthew 27:39-40

Did the Jewish leaders have any second thoughts that Jesus could really be the Son of God?

Matthew 27:41-43

Who else made a point of mocking this "self-proclaimed" king?

Luke 23:36-37

Was there anyone else who felt that Jesus should be insulted for His horrible crime?

Matthew 27:44

The Robber Looks to the King (*Luke 23:39-43*)

How did one of the robbers being crucified stand up for Jesus?

Luke 23:39-41

How did this robber show a surprising understanding of who Jesus really was?

Luke 23:42

After a life of crime, was this dying confession of faith too late?

Luke 23:43

The King's Family (*John 19:25-27*)

Who do the Gospels say witnessed Jesus' execution?

Matthew 27:55-56

Mark 15:40-41

John 19:25

Some: Salome, Zebedee's wife, was Mary's sister

Did Jesus look for comforting sympathy from these caring faces?

John 19:26-27

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The King Sings a Song of King David (*Matthew 27:45-49*)

What time was it when Jesus was crucified?

Mark 15:25

What happened after Jesus had been on the cross three hours?

Matthew 27:45

How did Jesus break the darkness at 3:00?

Matthew 27:46

What was Jesus saying?

Psalms 22:1

What did those who didn't understand Aramaic think He said?

Matthew 27:47-49

The King Dies (*John 19:28-29*)

David's Psalm 22 describes Jesus' passion. How did Jesus fulfill the dry mouth in verse 15?

John 19:28

What kind of drink was He given?

John 19:29

What did Jesus say after He took the drink?

John 19:30

What final words did Jesus speak before dying?

Luke 23:46

The World Reacts (*Matthew 27:50-54*)

What happened the moment Jesus died?

Matthew 27:50-53

What impact did this have on people who saw this happen?

Matthew 27:54

Luke 23:48-49

None of the King's Bones are Broken (*John 19:31-36*)

The Jews had been in a rush to kill Jesus. What hurried them now?

John 19:31

Besides the special Passover Sabbath, why else was it important to get the bodies down?

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

What happened when the soldiers came to break the legs and who witnessed it?

John 19:32-35

Why was it important that Jesus' legs weren't broken?

John 19:36-37 (Psalm 34:20, Zechariah 12:10)

Blood and water showed that His heart and pericardium were pierced

What other important point is made by the fact that none of Jesus' bones were broken?

Exodus 12:43-47; Numbers 9:9-12

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The King is Buried (*John 19:38-42*)

Who took charge of burying Jesus' body?

Matthew 27:57-58

What else do we know about Joseph?

Luke 23:50-52

How did Pilate respond to Joseph's request?

Mark 15:43-45

Did anyone else help Joseph?

John 19:38-39 (*John 3:1-21*)

What did they do with Jesus' body?

John 19:40-42

How was Joseph able to find an unoccupied tomb on such short notice?

Matthew 27:59-60

The King's Women Add Their Spices (*Luke 23:55-56*)

If Joseph and Nicodemus were alone, how did the disciples know where Jesus was buried?

Luke 23:55

Why didn't the women add their spices to Jesus' body the next day?

Luke 23:56

Where were Jesus' apostles during all of this?

John 20:10

The Dead King's Guard (*Matthew 27:62-66*)

Did the Jewish leaders refrain from work on the Sabbath or was there business to conduct?

Matthew 27:62-64

Did Pilate agree and personally take care of getting the tomb secure?

Matthew 27:65

Did the leaders then ask Pilate to do it so they wouldn't have to work on the Sabbath?

Matthew 27:66

The seal was a cord stretched across the stone & secured with clay on each side

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I followed Jesus' example of praying for my enemies?
(*Luke 23:34; Matthew 5:43-48; Acts 7:54-60; Romans 12:14; 1 Cor 4:12-13a; 1 Peter 2:18-23*)
2. How certain am I that I will join Jesus in paradise as He promised the robber on the cross?
(*Luke 23:43; Job 19:25-27; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:12-23, 35-58; Ephesians 2:4-6; 1 Thess 4:13-18*)
3. When have I felt forsaken or forgotten by God?
(*Matthew 27:46; Genesis 28:15; Deut 4:31; 1 Kings 19:8-18; Psalm 9:10; 22:1; Isaiah 49:14-16*)
4. Do I trust that Jesus has finished and paid all for me or do I feel I must do things to be saved?
(*John 19:30; 2 Cor 12:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:4-6; Hebrews 7:27; 10:10-14*)
5. How readily do I commit all thing, including my life, to Jesus?
(*Luke 23:46; Matthew 19:27-30; Acts 4:32-37; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:4-5*)

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Jerusalem Locations of Christ's Trial and Crucifixion

