

The Sentence

Lesson Twenty-Four

Matthew 27; Mark 15;
Luke 23; John 18, 19

In the last lesson, Jesus was betrayed and sent to various religious leaders for a "trial." Then He was taken to Herod and Pontius Pilate in hopes that one of them would pronounce the death sentence on Him. Pilate indicated that he could find nothing Jesus had done wrong. Yet, the weakness of Pilate's personality and his unwillingness to upset the Jews will lead to the condemnation of Jesus. Pilate has Jesus scourged and then taken away for execution. These events will be covered in this lesson along with two sections covering the crucifixion. Finally the lesson will deal with the burial of Jesus.

THE SAVIOR CONDEMNED

Matthew 27; Mark 15;
Luke 23; John 18

After Herod is finished with Jesus, he sends Him back to Pilate. **Read Luke 23:13-17** to see how Pilate handles the situation.

Does Pilate think Jesus is guilty of anything? no

Does Herod think Jesus is guilty of anything? no

What will Pilate do to Jesus? Have Him punished

The punishment will be scourging or flogging with a whip with bits of lead and bone attached to the ends of the thongs. There were three thongs. The whip was applied thirteen times. This resulted in thirty-nine lashes. The maximum number of times a person could be hit with such a device was forty. Sometimes people died from this punishment. Pilate's character is showing in that he will allow a man in whom he finds no guilt to go through such a brutal punishment just to make the Jews happy and perhaps to avert further trouble.

Pilate has another idea of what to do with Jesus.

Now, at that feast the governor was accustomed to releasing a prisoner to the people, whomever they desired. And they had then a notable prisoner called Barabbas, who was cast into prison for an uprising in the city and for murder. Therefore, when they were gathered together, Pilate said, "You have a custom that I should release to you one at the Passover. Whom do you want me to release to you, Barabbas or Jesus, who is called Christ?" For he knew that for envy they had delivered Him.

What does the governor do each year at this time? Release a prisoner

What choice does Pilate give to the people? Barabbas or Jesus

What crimes had Barabbas committed? Murder and starting a riot

Pilate believes the Jews have handed Jesus over for what reason? envy

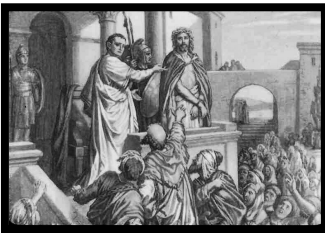
Pilate's wife now becomes involved in this case. **Read Matthew 27:19-21** to see what she has to say. (Slide 1)

From what experience does Pilate's wife know of Jesus? A dream

What is her message to Pilate? Jesus is innocent; have nothing to do with Him

For which of the two prisoners does the crowd ask? Barabbas

Why? the priests and elders persuade the crowd



Then they cried out all at once saying, "Away with this Man and release to us Barabbas." Pilate, therefore, willing to release Jesus spoke again to them. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They cried saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" And he said to them the third time, "Why? What evil has He done? I have found no cause of death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." They were instant with loud voices requiring that He might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

What does the crowd want done with Jesus? crucified

Does Pilate want to do this? no

What does the last sentence of this passage mean? The chief priests win; they will get their way

Not only will Jesus be crucified, but scourged as well. **Read Matthew 27:26-31.** (Slide 2)

What things do the soldiers do to Jesus? 1.) put a scarlet robe on Him

2.) put a crown of thorns on Him 3.) mock Him

4.) spit on Him 5.) Hit Him on the head

*When the chief priests, therefore, and officers saw Him, **3** they cried out saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him and crucify Him. For I find no*

fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard that, he was more afraid and went again into the judgment hall and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then said Pilate to Him, "Will You not speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all against Me except it were given to you from above; therefore, he that delivered Me to you has the greater sin." From then on, Pilate sought to release Him but the Jews cried out saying, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

Why is Pilate afraid? *Because he hears that Jesus is the Son of God*

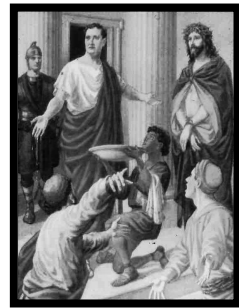
Where is Pilate's power from? *God*

Is Pilate without sin in this matter? *no*

What final charge do the Jews make against Jesus? *He is a rival king*

This final charge prevails. Pilate will do nothing more to save Jesus.

*When Pilate heard that saying and saw that he could not prevail, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude saying, **4** "I am innocent of the blood of this just person. See to it yourselves." Then answered all the people and said, "His blood be on us and our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but he delivered Jesus to their will to be crucified.*



What does Pilate do to let himself "off the hook"? *washes his hands symbolically*

How do the people respond to what Pilate says? *They say that they will take the blame*



THE CRUCIFIXION (PART ONE)

Matthew 27; Mark 15;
Luke 23; John 19

They took off the purple robe from Him and put His own clothes on Him and led Him out to crucify Him. He, bearing His cross, went forth into a place called the place of the skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha. As they led Him away, they found

a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, 5 coming out of the country. Him they compelled to bear the cross after Jesus. There followed Him a great company of people and of women, who also bewailed and lamented Him. 6 But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming in the which they shall begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" There were also two others, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death. When they were come to the place that is called Calvary, 7 they gave Him wine to drink, mingled with gall. When He had tasted it, He would not drink.

Golgotha and Calvary refer to the same place. Calvary is the Greek name.

Who carries the cross at first? Jesus

Who then carries the cross? Simon from Cyrene

Why? Jesus is too weak and cannot carry it

Who cry over Jesus? The women

Jesus says they should cry for whom? Themselves and their children

What is the meaning of the sentence about the "green tree"? if the innocent Jesus is treated like this, what will happen to the guilty Jews (other explanations possible)

How many others will be crucified at this time? two

The gall placed in the wine acted as a pain killer. Jesus refused to take it. He wanted to be fully conscious and aware during His sacrifice – His suffering and death in our place.

And they crucified Him and the malefactors with Him, 8 one on the right hand and the other on the left. And the scripture was fulfilled which said, "And He was numbered with the transgressors." It was the third hour. Then said Jesus, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." 9

The third hour would be nine o'clock in the morning.

What is Jesus' attitude toward those who are doing this to Him? forgiveness

Several interesting things are going on around the scene of the crucifixion. These work together to offer further proof of the identity of Jesus as the Son of God. **Read John 19:19-24. (Slide 10)**

What is written above the head of Jesus? *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*

What objection is raised by the chief priests? *They want the sign to say He*

claimed to be the King of the Jews

Will Pilate have the sign changed? *no*

What do the soldiers do with Jesus' clothing? *Divide it up*

How do they determine who will get the one-piece undergarment? *Cast lots for it*

What have the soldiers unwittingly done by doing these things? *Fulfilled prophecy*

The mocking of Jesus continues while He is on the cross.

They that passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Ah, You who would destroy the Temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. If You be the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise also the chief priests, mocking Him, with the scribes and elders said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross that we may see and believe. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The soldiers also mocked Him, coming to Him and offering Him vinegar and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

Why won't Jesus come down from the cross? *This is why He came to earth in the*

first place

THE CRUCIFIXION (PART TWO)

Matthew 27; Mark 15;
Luke 23; John 19

During the time Jesus was dying on the cross, He said several things. The first of these was "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This section will be concerned with the remaining six things He said and with His death.

Read Luke 23:39-43. (Continue with Slide 10)

What is the difference in the attitudes of the criminals being crucified with Jesus? _____

one is insulting Him and the other has some faith

What is the result of the faith of the criminal? *salvation*

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother; and His mother's sister; Mary, the wife of Cleophas; and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore saw His mother and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then said He to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" From that hour that disciple took her into his own home.

The disciple referred to is John. Does he do as Jesus asks? yes

The event of Jesus' suffering and death are felt throughout nature. **Read Mark 15:33-36** for the beginning of the unusual natural occurrences. This passage also reveals more of the words of Christ from the cross.

If the third hour was nine o'clock in the morning, what is the sixth hour? noon

What happens at the sixth hour? darkness

How long does it last? Three hours, until the ninth hour, until 3:00 pm

To whom do the people think Jesus is calling? Elijah

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst." 11 Now there was a vessel full of vinegar, and they filled a sponge with vinegar and put it upon hyssop and put it to His mouth and gave Him to drink. When Jesus, therefore, had received the vinegar, He said, "It is finished." And when He had cried with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit." Having said thus, He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.

What are Jesus' last words? "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."

And behold, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. The earth did quake and the rocks split. Graves were opened and many bodies of the saints who slept arose and came out of the graves. After His resurrection they went into the Holy city and appeared to many. Now, when the centurion and they who were with him watching Jesus saw the earthquake and those things that were done, they feared greatly. The centurion glorified God saying, "Certainly, this was a righteous Man. This was the son of God." All the people that came together to see that sight, beholding the things that were done, beat their breasts and went away.

The veil of the temple separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. Only the high priest could enter the area behind the veil. He did this once each year to offer a sacrifice for the atonement of the people. Atonement referred to the act of making the people right before God. When the veil was torn, it signified that our high priest is Jesus. He has made atonement for our sins once for all. We no longer have need of any other high priest nor any other sacrifice. Jesus makes us right before God. He has paid the price.

What is the centurion's reaction to all of the things that happen around him? _____

He glorified God

What emotions are being expressed when the people "beat their breasts"? _____

Grief, anguish, contrition

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

Matthew 27; Mark 15;

Luke 23; John 19

All appears to be over. Jesus is dead and now His body must be attended to. **Read John 19:31-37.**

In order to speed the death process, what did the Jews ask to be done? have

the legs broken

Are Jesus' legs broken? no

Why not? He is already dead

What is done to Jesus instead? His side is pierced with a spear

How is all of this a fulfillment of the scriptures? Scripture says no bone will

be broken; Scripture says He will be pierced

When the evening was come, there came Joseph of Arimathea, **12** an honorable counselor, a good man, and a prominent member of the Council (the same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them), who also himself waited for the kingdom of God, being a disciple of Jesus but secretly for fear of the Jews. This man went in boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marvelled that He was already dead. Calling a centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was dead. When he knew it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Joseph bought fine linen and took Him down. **13** There came also Nicodemus, who at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus and wound it in linen clothes with the spices as the manner of the Jews is to bury.



Who asks for the body of Jesus? Joseph of Arimathea

Why does Pilate not answer immediately? He wants to be sure Jesus is dead

Does Pilate give him the body? yes

Who comes to help with the burial? Nicodemus

When has this man had contact with Jesus before? At night. He was trying to understand how a person can be born again

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden and in the garden a new sepulcher that was cut in stone where no man before was laid. There laid they Jesus, **14** because of the Jews' preparation day (for the sepulcher was near at hand), and rolled a great stone in front of the door of the sepulcher and departed. The women also, who came with Him from Galilee followed after and beheld the sepulcher and how His body was laid. They returned and prepared spices and ointments and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.

Has anyone ever used this tomb before? no

Why is it important that this tomb is close at hand? It is almost the Sabbath; they do not have much time

Why don't the women immediately bring the spices and ointments? They cannot break the Sabbath

The chief priests want to make sure they are done with Jesus. **Read Matthew 27:62-66** to see what they do.

For what do the chief priests ask? They ask for the tomb to be made secure

Why? they do not want the body stolen

Is their request granted? yes

What two things do they do? 1.) post a guard 2.) seal the tomb

REVIEW

1. Does Pilate find guilt in Jesus? no
2. Do the people choose Barabbas or Jesus? Barabbas
3. What does Pilate have done to Jesus before he hands Him over? scourged
4. Why does Pilate wash his hands? To show he wants no blame in the crucifixion
5. Who helps carry the cross? Simon of Cyrene
6. What happens to Jesus' clothing? Soldiers take it
7. What seven things does Jesus say while on the cross?
 - a. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
 - b. "Truly, I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise."
 - c. "Behold, your mother."
 - d. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
 - e. "I thirst."
 - f. "It is finished."
 - g. "Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit."
8. What does the tearing of the veil signify? Jesus is our High Priest; no need for sacrifice
9. Are Jesus' legs broken? no
10. Who takes the body of Jesus? Joseph of Arimathea

