

Lesson 33: The Crucifixion

Objective: To learn that it was sin that put Jesus to death and that Jesus was put to death for our sin.

Background: The Jewish religious leaders who ought to have recognized (known) and welcomed Jesus, the Messiah, were the very ones who bound their Messiah and led Him before the Roman governor and caused Him to suffer the shame and the horrible, terrible death of the cross – a most cruel way of punishment used by the Romans with the rebels and criminals. Yet the death of Jesus was not an accident and Jesus was not a victim either. Jesus volunteered to suffer and die for our sins.

Instructions: Read carefully Luke 23:32-43; Mark 15:15-41; John 19:23-30 as if you witnessed the death of Jesus.

Let's Think:

The "hour" has finally come. Jesus, carried His own cross and was led in procession by a Roman execution squad to Golgotha, a hill outside the walls of Jerusalem. On the way, a man named Simon was forced by the Roman soldiers to carry the cross for Jesus, who obviously was totally exhausted. It was around 9 o'clock Friday morning, the Roman soldiers stripped Jesus and nailed Him to the Cross between two criminals. And He died 6 hours later. Let us in reverence see the final hours of Jesus' life here on earth.

1. a) Did Jesus hate those who hurt Him and nailed Him to the cross? Explain (Luke 23:32-34)

b) What did the soldiers do after they executed Jesus? What do you think of them?
(John 19:23-25)

2. a) What promise did Jesus give to the criminal who repented and believed in Jesus?
(Luke 23:43)

b) Death makes us sad but should we be afraid of it since we believe in Jesus? Why?

3. a) How did Jesus care for Mary, His mother, when He saw her from the cross?(John19:25-27)
("The disciple Jesus loved", is very likely John)

b) Who proved (showed) to be faithful to Jesus at the end? (Matthew 27:55-56)

4. a) What did the religious leaders challenge (tell) Jesus to do after they hanged Him on the cross? (Mark 15:31,32) What do you think of them?

b) Was Jesus able to do what the religious leaders challenged him to do? What did Jesus choose to do? Was it easy—an easy choice? Why?

5. a) You have been following Jesus through, would you say His death was an accident? And was He a victim? Explain (Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22,23; Matthew 20:17-19; also John 10:17,18.)

b) Are the religious leaders and Pilate responsible for Jesus' death? Explain

6. a) Why did Jesus die since He was sinless and innocent? For what purpose (reason) was Jesus here? Tell in your own words (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10,11; John 1:29; John 12:24)

b) What does the cross of Jesus tell you about God? (Review Lesson 1; also John 3:16)

Since Jesus loved you and died for you, is it reasonable for you to serve Him and to please Him? Think of ways that you can please Jesus and tell Him about it. But you must really truly mean it!

Let's Remember: For the Son of Man (Jesus) came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom (means to pay the penalty of sin) for many. (Mark 10:43)

