

Lesson 33: The Crucifixion

Objective: To know that Jesus was crucified *for* man's sin as well as *by* man's sin.

Background: Ironically, the religious leaders who ought to have recognized and welcomed Jesus, were the very people delivering their Messiah to the Roman governor, and causing Him to suffer the shame and the horrible death of the cross. Crucifixion was a cruel method of execution using by the Romans for rebels and criminals. *Yet the death of Jesus was not an accident nor was He a victim.* Jesus *chose* to suffer and die for our sins, *voluntarily* laid down His life for you and me.

Instruction: Read carefully Luke 23:26-49; Mark 15: 16-41; John 19: 17 -30 as if you witnessed the death of Jesus.

Let's Think: The "hour" has finally come. Jesus carrying a cross led by a Roman execution squad from praetorium to Golgotha, a hill outside the walls of Jerusalem (Comp. Mt. 21 :39). On the way, a man named Simon was drafted by the Roman soldiers to carry the cross for Jesus. Around 9 O'clock, in the morning, the soldier stripped Jesus and nailed him to the cross between two criminals, and He died 6 hours later. Let us in reverence watch the final hours of Jesus' life here on earth.

1. Does the fact that Simon was drafted to carry the cross for Jesus in any way reflect the *humanness* of Jesus? (Mark15:16-21) How about the incidents found in Matt. 4:4; In. 4:6; 11:33,35; 12:27; Mark 3:5 4:38; 11:12; Luke 19:41? Explain.
2. What did the religious leaders challenge Jesus to do after they had succeeded in nailing Him to the cross? Had Jesus responded to their challenge? Why? (Mark 15:31-33)
3. Meditate on the last "seven words" Jesus uttered from the cross recorded in Luke 23:34, 43; John19:26-27; Mark 15:34; In.19:28, 30; Luke 23:46. Please explain:
 - a. To whom was the word addressed?
 - b. What does the word mean or imply?
 - c. What does it reveal about Jesus?
4. Would you say Jesus was a "victim" of circumstances since He was innocent? Substantiate your answer. Do you think the religious leaders and Pilate *were responsible* for His death? How about the Jewish nation? Explain.
5. Was it an accident that the curtain of the Temple was tom into two when Jesus died? Or, is anything significant about it? Explain. (Luke 23:44-45)
6. Has anyone "seen" the light in those "dark" hours of crucifixion and death of Jesus? If so, what's significant about it? Explain.
7. What is it that impressed you most as you watched the final hours of Jesus' life here on earth? Will it make any difference in your life here on earth? If so, how?

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 for many." (Mark 10:45)