

Lent – Jesus’ death, Matthew 27 v 32-61

Background: this is a witness statement from one of Jesus’ disciples, Matthew, about Jesus’ death.



How would you describe Jesus’ first trial? (Matthew 26 v 59-60)

Now read Matthew 27 v 32-61 slowly

What was the official charge against Jesus and why do you think this broke Roman law? (v37)

Read 1 Peter 2 v 24

Why did Jesus have to die?

Read v42-43 again

Why couldn’t Jesus save himself?

Verses 45-46 say there were 3 hours of darkness. This symbolized God’s anger at our sin. Jesus asked why God had abandoned Him. On the cross, Jesus couldn’t sense God’s presence because at that time Jesus, who was sinless, was bearing all of our sin.

A thick curtain in the Jewish temple kept the people out of God’s presence. When Jesus died, v51, it was ripped in two.

This was to show us that there is no longer a barrier between God and people who trust in Jesus’ death to pay for their sins.

How did the soldiers supervising Jesus’ crucifixion respond to the events of that day? (v54)

What is your response to this account of the death of Jesus?

‘When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.’ (John 19 v 30)

On the cross Jesus said that His work was finished and then He died. He had done all that needed to be done in order to pay for our sins so that we can be forgiven by God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that, in your death on the cross, you have done everything that needs to be done in order for me to be forgiven and made right with God. Thank you that all I need to do is to accept your offer of free forgiveness as I repent and believe in you. Amen.

If you have a Bible, why not look up the verses yourself instead of just reading them here. I've printed them here for people who don't have a Bible!

Matthew 26 v 59-60

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Matthew 27 v 32-61

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵² and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ 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!"

⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

1 Peter 2 v 24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.