

Week 7, Day 31

Matthew 27:1-26

As today's passage unfolds we see the religious leaders taking Jesus to Pilate. This act of taking Jesus to Pilate was an attempt to make legal the illegal trial that the religious leaders had held during the preceding night. No trial was to happen at night and the religious leaders had ignored that law and now they sought to give a level of credence to their actions. This was done for the people in Jerusalem. Jesus was recognized as a prophet and some saw Him as the long awaited Messiah. They needed things to appear above board in order to sway the people's opinion of Jesus.

Turn to Acts and read Acts 7: 54-60. Who was executed in this passage?

Was there a trial?

Was there an appeal to the Roman governor?

The religious leaders could have acted as a mob and killed Jesus during the night. The need was not just to get rid of Jesus, but to discredit Him. A dead Jesus that was still hailed as Messiah could prove very problematic for the Pharisees. (Nowhere near as problematic as the dead Jesus that rose again!) In order to discredit Jesus they needed a public trial and so it begins.

Before we see Pilate's involvement, however, the passage takes us back to Judas and his suicide as a result of what he had done. Turn to Zechariah and read Zechariah 11:11-13. The prophet is describing God's anger with the people of Israel over the crucifixion of His Son, Jesus. In verse 13 we see God using sarcasm in His description of what the people did. What is the sarcasm that God uses?

God describes a total destruction that will befall Jerusalem as a result of the decision to crucify Jesus in Zechariah's prophecy.

After the account of Judas' suicide Matthew returns to the trial of Jesus as He is taken to Pilate. John has a parallel passage in John 18:28-38. Why does John tell us the religious leaders would not enter Pilate's headquarters?

Isn't it amazing that the Pharisees could engage in a mockery of a trial and condemn Jesus to a death sentence and not enter a Gentile's house because to do so would be a defilement? Can you think of an example of times that we act the same as the Pharisees? In that, we avoid one wrong behavior but engage in another?

Verse 11 of Matthew has Jesus Standing before Pilate. What behavior of Jesus amazed Pilate according to verse 14?

Why do you think Jesus responded in that way?

As Pilate was interrogating Jesus, what word was sent to him according to verse 19?

In your opinion, what was the purpose of that message being included in the gospel record?

The most pivotal question of all time is asked in by Pilate in this passage. What is the question that Pilate asks in verse 22?

It is a question that must be asked by every single person every single day. Before you came to know Jesus you had to decide your beliefs about His claims and His sacrifice. After coming to faith in Jesus each of us must still ask that question everyday.....What will I do with Jesus.

Prayer Primer: Make your prayer today.....What should I do then with Jesus?

Week 7, Day 32

Matthew 27:27-44

As you read today's passage, make a list of every injustice against Jesus in the text:

Now turn to Psalm 22 and read verses 1-18. This is a Messianic psalm that includes some prophetic words that have parallel to today's text. Make note of the verses that reference the crucifixion of Jesus below:

If you have been with us since we began our study of the gospel of Matthew, you may remember from our very first week of study we discovered that the writer, Matthew, presents Jesus as King. We will see in our lesson today that title meant different things to different people.

The Romans, generally, put a sign over the head of a criminal on a cross to indicate the crime for which the offender was receiving punishment. In the case of Jesus, it might have served as a warning against insurrection by other Jews. The Roman government was the authority in Palestine at the time and, as such, was intolerant of those who might attempt to oppose that authority.

The Jews could not have considered Jesus to be their king. To agree that He was King would be to agree that He was the Messiah. He did not present Himself in the way in which they were expecting their Messiah. Most commentators and theologians will tell us that the Jews hated the Romans. They did not like being under Roman rule or authority. With that in mind, read John 19:15. What is so shocking about that verse?

Realizing that both the Romans and the Jews refused to see Jesus in His rightful role as King does not make Him any less the King. What does it mean, in general, that Jesus is King? What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is King?

What is the last phrase of verse 31 of Matthew 27?

Matthew writes little detail about the actual crucifixion of Jesus. The first readers of the gospel were very familiar with crucifixion. They had likely seen it over and over again. Perhaps we, as modern believers, have become somewhat desensitized to the brutality of it. We are exposed to violence through fictional programs and movies as well as what we see on the evening news. What happened to Jesus was violent, merciless, and horrendous.

Jesus suffered physical torture and abuse at the hands of the Romans. As they led Him out to the place where the crossbeam would be attached to the upright beam Scripture reports that a man named Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for Jesus to Golgotha. The next bit of information is about the wine mixed with gall. Some commentators write that the reason Jesus refused it was because gall was a bitter herb and, therefore, produced a bitter drink. Other commentators write that the gall was a substance that would have lessened the pain and Jesus refused it, not wanting His senses to be dulled in any way.

Not only did Jesus suffer physical torture and abuse, He faced rejection and abandonment. Let's take one last look at Old Testament prophecy before we end today's lesson. Parts of the book of Isaiah are about the "Suffering Servant." Please read Isaiah 52:14 – 53:12.

From this text, make 2 lists under the following headings:

What mankind did to Jesus

What Jesus did for mankind

Prayer Primer: Ask God to help you never take for granted what Jesus did for you.

Week 7, Day 33

Matthew 27:45-66

Today we read about our Lord hanging on a cross, crucified as payment for our sin. We will look at a composite picture of all Gospel records in order to see all that Jesus said as He hung on that cross. There are minor disagreements among scholars; however, most agree that the following is the order in which Christ uttered His seven saying on the cross. For each passage write the saying of Christ.

#1 Luke 23:34 " _____."

In this saying Christ displays His character.

A forgiving spirit was the character of Jesus. Here at FBCM we have embraced two very simple definitions for the words grace and mercy. Can you fill in the blanks to complete this quote of those definitions: "Grace is _____ what you do not deserve and mercy is _____ what you do deserve.

Back during the *Define the Relationship* series, I told FBCM that forgiveness is focusing more on what God has done for you than on what others have done to you.

Jesus expressed ultimate forgiveness and thus shows His love nature. What is Jesus' statement about the people who are crucifying Him?

Have there been times you have held a grudge or resented someone and the other person did not even know they had offended or hurt you?

As followers of Christ we are to follow His example.

Prayer Primer: Is there someone you need to forgive today?

#2 Luke 23:43 " _____."

In this saying Jesus displays His mission.

Jesus' entire earthly ministry had one priority. According to Luke 19:10 what was that priority?

Hanging on the cross Jesus was still engaged in the ministry of reaching the lost. As followers of His that is our mission as well.

Prayer Primer: Pray that you will opportunity and courage to follow through in sharing the Good News this week.

#3 John 19:26 -27, " _____."

In this saying Jesus displays His selfless love.

He put the needs of his mother ahead of the pain and agony that He was enduring.

What is this about?

On several occasions Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment each time He responded with a very similar answer. Write that answer here as found in Mark 12:30-31.

Prayer Primer: Pray that you will love your neighbor as yourself and in doing so, show selfless love.

#4Matthew 27:46 " _____"

In this saying Jesus displays His battle.

Jesus hung on the cross to give us the victory over a powerful foe. Jesus hung on that cross with the weight of our sin upon Him.

Too often we forget the reality of sin, even in the lives of followers.

According to Isaiah 59:1-2, what is the effect of sin in our lives?

Prayer Primer: Pray a prayer of confession.

#5 John 19:8. " _____."

In this saying Jesus displays His humanity.

We cannot ever lose sight of the fact that Jesus willingly set aside His deity and put on humanity to be our High Priest.

Read Philippians 2:5-11. What 2 specific things do verses 6 and 7 tell us Jesus did by coming to the world as a man?

Prayer Primer: Thank God for the sacrifice that was made for us.

#6 John 19:30. " _____."

In this saying Jesus displays His 'finishing ability'.

In sports, athletes always talk about "finishing strong". By saying that, they are saying give full effort and full intensity until the game or the season is over. What statement does Ephesians 2:10 make about your life in Christ?

Prayer Primer: Pray that today you will "finish strong" today in the "good works" God has for you.

#7 Luke 23:46 " _____".

In this saying Jesus displays His dependence.

Jesus died entrusting Himself to the promised care of God. The Word of God is full of promises God makes to followers of Jesus. Write three promises along with the passages in which they appear here:

1.)

2.)

3.)

Prayer Primer: Pray that you will trust in God's amazing promises today.

Week 7, Day 34

Matthew 28:1-15

It was early on that Sunday morning, dawn of a new day, when Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary left their homes and went out to the tomb where they believed the body of Jesus lay. Luke's gospel reports that the women carried spices that they would use to prepare His body for burial. Turn to Luke 23 and read verses 50-56. What information do these verses give about the events following the death of Jesus?

Back in Matthew's gospel we are given the information that there was an earthquake as an angel of the Lord came down and rolled the stone that covered the tomb away. The appearance of the angel was brilliant and it scared the guards. Scripture does not record the women being frightened but the voice of the angel reassured them, "Don't be afraid. I know why you're here."

The command, do not be afraid, is found over and over again in Scripture. There are at least three other times when those words are spoken in Matthew's gospel. As a review, look up the following references to see the context and make a few notes about the situation:

Matthew 1:20

Matthew 14:27

Matthew 17:7

Most everyone has some kind of fear. Twice in today's passage the women are told to not be afraid; once by the angel and again by Jesus Himself. What do you need to confess before God that you are afraid? Write it out and then hear God's words to your soul, "Do not be afraid."

In verse 6 the women were told to "come and see" and in verse 7 they were told to "go and tell." What were they to come and see and go and tell?

In tomorrow's final lesson we will read the Great Commission. "Go and tell" what you have seen and heard is part of our obligation as believers and followers of Jesus. Even if we are not Bible scholars after spending weeks and weeks studying the book of Matthew, we have our own experiences. We can go and tell what we know from our own encounters with Jesus and His Word.

The following verses are a witness to what was seen and heard. Look up each reference and write what was witnessed:

Acts 3:14-15

Acts 13:28-32

The message of the eyewitnesses continued even though the chief priests attempted to put a stop to it before it even started. What was the bribe that was made in Matthew 28:11-15?

Even today people will try to discount the validity of the Gospel. They cannot argue with our own experiences. Do not stop telling what you have seen and heard and experienced. More on that tomorrow...

Prayer Primer: Pray that you will have opportunity today to go and tell and tell what you have seen and heard.

Finally, the last day of Fusion. If you have been with us since we started the gospel of Matthew you have reached the end of a 19-week journey. Matthew chose to end his gospel narrative with a meeting some commentators believe took place on Mount Tabor.

Just for clarification, who exactly met with Jesus on the mountain?

Why were they there?

Jesus Christ's closest followers met Him according to His instructions. Write the 3 phrases that describe this meeting according to verse 17:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

First, they saw Him. The word *saw* means just what you think, "to perceive with the outward senses."¹ Next, they worshiped. *Worshiped* means, "to bow forward in reverence."² The third phrase indicates some doubted. Since Matthew does not write that anyone else was there, we can only believe it was the eleven disciples and Jesus. The word *doubt* means, "to waver in opinion." It comes from a root word meaning, "to think twice."³

On this last day we are writing this lesson together. Our belief is the disciples did not doubt *who* He was but, perhaps, things like: Where do we go from here? How did this happen? What does this mean?

We, as believer and followers, believe Jesus is the Son of God. However, we also struggle with the same types of questions. What kind of doubt questions do you have or have you had in the past?

¹Spiros Zodhiates, ed., *Lexical Aids to the New Testament*, (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), 900.

²Spiros Zodhiates, ed., *Greek Dictionary of the New Testament*, (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992),

³*Ibid*, 24.

Then, in the next three verses Jesus told the disciples three different things:

Verse 18 – “I have all authority. I can handle anything.”

Verse 19 – “you go and tell”

Verse 20 – “I will go with you”

These verses are commonly known as The Great Commission. According to Webster a commission is “a formal warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties.”

The Great Commission applies to all followers of Jesus of all time. So, it is broad and far reaching. In one paragraph, write a commission statement for your life. Take the words of Jesus and apply them specifically to you and where you will go from here. (i.e.; in your family, in your job, in your community)

Prayer Primer: Ask God to strengthen and empower you to carry out the Great Commission.

PS – This journey through the gospel of Matthew with you has been a blast and an honor. Writing this study has pushed us, challenged us, and blessed us. We have learned from the text, from each other, and from the time we’ve spent with you. We have been blessed by your faithfulness and your encouragement. We are honored to serve with you!