

Matthew 27:1-56

Day 1

Jesus' Trials. Judas' Remorse: Read Matthew 27:1- 14

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

1. What happened in the morning after Jesus' trial by the Sanhedrin? 27:1,2

- What would you say about the verdict they had come to and their treatment of Jesus? (See the sheet "Jesus' Trials")

2. From John 18:29,30, what was the chief priests' and elders' first explanation for bringing Jesus to Pilate?

- What was their real reason? John 18:31
- Who was ultimately in control? John 18:32

Judas Hangs Himself

3. How did Judas feel about Jesus' sentencing? 27:3,4

- What did he try to do? 27:3b,4
- What actions did he take when the leaders rebuffed him? 27:5 (See also Acts 1:18,19)

FYI: "Judas may have betrayed Jesus in order to force Him to take action against His enemies and inaugurate His kingdom. But that was not God's timing and plan."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1630)

4. What was done with Judas' money? 26:6-8

- What instruction were they following from Deuteronomy 23:18 about ill-gotten gains?

FYI: "Matthew is again pointing out the propensity of the Jewish leaders for ceremonial purity even in the face of gross injustice (cf. 12:9-14; 15:19; 23:23; 28:12-13; cf. John 18:28)."
- Expositor's Bible Commentary

5. What was amazing about this outcome? 27:9,10

Jesus Before Pilate

6. What was the first thing Pilate asked Jesus and how did Jesus respond? 27:11 Why would this concern Pilate?
7. What were the chief priests and elders doing and how did Jesus respond? 27:12 (Why do you think Jesus answered Pilate but not the leaders?)

Digging Deeper

For an interesting conversation between Jesus and Pilate about kingship, see John 18:33-38. How did Jesus witness even to him?

- How did Pilate feel about Jesus' response? 27:13,14
8. From Luke 23:2,5, list the charges the leaders made before Pilate. (Note Pilate's verdict 23:4.)
- Why do you think they didn't stick with the original charge of blasphemy?
9. What did one of the charges cause Pilate to do? Luke 23:6,7
- How did Herod treat Jesus? Luke 23:9-11
 - What did Pilate say again to the Jews after he and Herod had examined Jesus? Luke 23:14,15

Applying the Word: *If you had been at Jesus' trials, what do you think you would have found most disturbing?*

Day 2

Jesus' Sentencing. Read Matthew 27:15-34

10. How did Pilate try to get Jesus released? 27:15-17 Why would he think the people might choose Barabbas? (See the charges against Barabbas in Luke 23:19; John 18:40.)
- What had he discerned about this case? 27:18 (What did Pilate desire? Luke 23:20)

11. What other interesting thing happened during this trial? 27:19

12. How did the leaders put pressure on Pilate? 27:20

- Interestingly, how did Pilate respond? 27:21-23

FYI: "History shows us Pontius Pilate was a cruel and ruthless man...almost completely insensitive to the moral feelings of others,... unkind to Jews, and contemptuous of almost everything but raw power. Here, he seems out of character in the way he handles Jesus. Jesus must have profoundly affected him."
- David Guzik

13. What choice did Pilate make? 27:24 Was he really innocent? (What does Mark 15:15a give as the reason for Pilate's decision?)

14. How willing were the people to take responsibility? 27:25 (Cf. 23:30)

- What else did the people say? John 19:15 (How did the people manipulate Pilate?)

15. Underline what Jesus' blood did:

- Matthew 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. NIV
- Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! NIV
- Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace NIV
- Colossians 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. NIV
- Hebrews 9:22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. NIV
- Hebrews 13:12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. NIV

Digging Deeper
See why the shedding of blood is necessary to forgive sin. Genesis 9:4-6; Leviticus 17:11

16. What preliminary punishment was Jesus given? 27:26

Digging Deeper
For another attempt by Pilate to release Jesus after the scourging, see John 19:4-6.

FYI: "The blows came from a whip with many leather strands, each having sharp pieces of bone or metal at the ends. It reduced the back to raw flesh, and it was not unusual for a criminal to die from a scourging, even before crucifixion. 'Scourging was a legal preliminary to every Roman execution, and only women and Roman senators or soldiers (except in cases of desertion) were exempt.'" (Dr. William Edwards)
...The blows of scourging would lessen as the criminal confessed to his crimes. Jesus remained silent, having no crimes to confess, so the blows continued with full strength."
- David Guzik

17. What did Jesus endure next? 27:27-31 (What state would Jesus have been in before the cross?)

- How would you explain the intense hostility and contempt aimed at Jesus from every side?

18. How was Jesus helped? 27:32 What does that say about Jesus' condition?

FYI: "Wonderfully, we have reason to believe that Simon came to know what it *really meant* to take up one's cross and follow Jesus. We know that his sons became leaders among the early Christians ([Mark 15:21](#) and [Romans 16:13](#))."
- David Guzik

19. Where was Jesus led? 27:33

- Why do you think Jesus refused any sedative? 27:34

Applying the Word: "Jesus went through an unfair trial in our place so that we would not have to face a fair one." - NIV Life Application Bible
What impresses you the most about Jesus from these trials? What does it reveal about the extent of His love?

Day 3

Jesus' Crucifixion. Read Matthew 27:35-49

20. What did the soldiers do when Jesus was crucified? 27:35,36

- What prophecy did this fulfill? Psalm 22:17b,18
- What request did Jesus make for those who crucified Him? Luke 23:24

Digging Deeper

What insights does Psalm 22:11-18 give you into Jesus' sufferings on the cross?

21. What charge was put on display? 27:37

- What complaints did the chief priests make about this? John 19:20-22

22. Who was crucified with Jesus? 27:38 What did this fulfill? Isaiah 53:12b

23. List who was mocking Jesus and the insults they made:

- 27:39,40
- 27:41-43 (Cf. Psalm 22:7,8)
- 27:44
- Luke 23:36-37

Digging Deeper

For the conversation between the criminals crucified with Jesus see Luke 23:39-43.

FYI: "Come down from the cross: " It is precisely because He did *not* save Himself that He can save others. Love kept Jesus on the cross, not nails! Jesus did greater than come down from the cross; He rose from the dead, yet they did not believe even then...This is the epitome of God's love for man, to go through this for our salvation. But it is also the epitome of man's hatred for God; God came to earth, and this is what man did to Him.' - David Guzik

24. What might have been Jesus' only comfort on the cross? John 19:25b-26

25. What unusual phenomenon occurred when Jesus was on the cross?
27:45

- What do you think this indicated?

Digging Deeper

For significance of *darkness* see Amos 8:9-10; John 3:19; Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 1:13.

FYI: "Phlegon, Roman historian wrote this: 'In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, there was an extraordinary eclipse of the sun: at the sixth hour, the day turned into dark night, so that the stars in heaven were seen; and there was an earthquake.' (Cited in Clarke)"
- David Guzik

"The darkness was not due to an eclipse of the sun, since the Passover occurred at full moon. This was a supernatural occurrence."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1632)

26. What other intense suffering was Jesus experiencing on the cross? 27:46 (Consider: Even during His temptations in the wilderness, He had not endured this.)

FYI: "The duplication of 'My God, My God' indicates Jesus' deep sorrow. The fact that Jesus spoke in Aramaic, the tongue of His birth, may be another sign of the extreme stress He was encountering. No human can understand the theological significance of this cry."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1632)

27. Underline what Jesus did on the cross and double underline what He obtained for mankind:

- Isa 53:5,6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. NIV
- Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV
- John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! NIV
- Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering...NIV
- 1 Corinthians 5:7 ...For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. NIV
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV
- Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." NIV
- Ephesians 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- Galatians 1:3-4 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, NIV
- 1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. NIV
- 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. NIV
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. NIV
- 1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. NIV
- Hebrews 9:11-12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. NIV
- Revelation 5:9 "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. NIV

28. From the above verses, what would you say is the answer to Jesus' question (27:46)?

- From 2 Corinthians 5:19, write the phrase that describes what God was accomplishing.

29. How else was Jesus mocked on the cross? 27:47-49 (Compare Psalm 69:10-21)

FYI: "Sour wine...Christ may have accepted this in order to give Himself enough moisture and strength to cry out again with a loud voice. (vs. 50)." - The Nelson Study Bible (1632)

Applying the Word: What does the ugliness and cost of Jesus' death on a cross communicate about sin? Since Jesus had the power to remove Himself from all these things at any time, and had the right to judge us instead, how would you explain what kept Him on the cross?

Day 4

Jesus' Death. Read Matthew 27:50-

30. What does the phrase "yielded up His spirit" indicate about Jesus' control over His death?

- What did He say at the end? See Luke 23:46 and John 19:30

FYI: "John 19:30 tells us that He said, "*it is finished*," which is one word in the ancient Greek - *tetelestai*, which means, "paid in full." This is the cry of a winner, because Jesus fully paid the debt of sin we owed, and finished the eternal purpose of the cross." - David Guzik

"The verb translated yielded means 'dismissed'." - The Nelson Study Bible (1632)

"Death had no righteous hold over the sinless Son of God. He stood *in the place* of sinners, but was never a sinner Himself. So He could not die unless He **yielded up His spirit**." - David Guzik

31. What measures were taken to make sure Jesus was dead? John 19:33,34

32. List the amazing things that happened when Jesus died. 27:51-53

Torn Veil

33. What purpose did the *veil* in the temple serve? What was behind it? Ex 26:33-34

- What did the mercy seat represent? Exodus 25:22

34. How would you explain the significance of the torn veil and it's being torn "from top to bottom?"

Digging Deeper

From Leviticus 16:2,32-34, who was allowed into the Most Holy Place behind the veil? How often? For what purpose? (See also Hebrews 9:7)

What was the penalty for a laymen entering the sanctuary? Numbers 3:38

FYI: "The **veil** is what separated the holy place from the most holy place in the temple. It was a vivid demonstration of the separation between God and man. Notably, the veil was torn from **top to bottom**, and it was God who did the tearing." - David Guzik

35. Underline the access that Christ's death gave us.

- Hebrews 10:19-20 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, NIV
- Romans 5:1-2 we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. NIV
- Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. NIV

Read
Ephesians 1:3-8
for an amazing
summary of all the
things given to
us through
Christ.

36. What did the centurion (a Gentile) and the guards declare? 27:54

- What do you think may have convicted them of Jesus' innocence? (*What had they witnessed? Consider the experience they had with crucifixions and death.*)

37. How did other observers respond? Luke 23:48

38. List the names of the women who were at the cross. 27:55,56 (See Mark 15:40,41)

Applying the Word: *If Jesus were put on trial today, what kind of accusations and charges do you think would be brought against Him?*