

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/24-25/2022 *Matthew Chapter 27:1-31*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Matthew Chapter 27

Jesus Handed Over to Pontius Pilate - (vs. 1-2); Judas Hangs Himself – (vs. 3-10); Jesus Faces Pilate - (vs. 11-14); Taking the Place of Barabbas – (vs. 15-26); The Soldiers Mock Jesus - (vs. 27-31); The King on a Cross – (vs. 32-44); Jesus Dies on the Cross - (vs. 45-56); Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb – (vs. 57-61); Pilate Sets a Guard - (vs. 62-66).

Read these accounts also in (Mark Chapter 15:1-20); (Luke Chapter 23:1-25); (John 18:28-19:16)

- **As we come to Matthew chapter 27, may we as introduction and a reminder, turn to (Act 2:22-23) "Men**

of Israel, hear these words: *Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— [23] Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.* As Peter talks about the death of Jesus Christ, he declares that it was **by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**. In other words, the crucifixion was planned by God! The purpose was the redemption of man and the revelation to man of God's love! Whenever in the scripture God wants to prove His love for you, He always points to the cross!

- **(John 3:16)** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
- **(1Jn 4:10)** *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
- **(Rom 5:7-8)** *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **Whenever God wants to prove His love**, He always just points to the cross. That is the proof of God's love, in giving His only begotten Son to die for your sin and for my sin. Therein God proves His love for us!
- **In chapter 27, Matthew now records for us the events** of the trial and the crucifixion of Jesus. We can realize that this was all a part of God's eternal plan! **It was His determined purpose and foreknowledge.** He knew all about this when He sent His Son into the world! He sent Him to die for our sins! To prove His love for you and for me! May we keep that as a background as we look at chapter 27.

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

Mat 27:1 *When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.*

Mat 27:2 *And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.*

- **The night before, of course, Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane** after He had the Passover supper with the disciples. The Jewish day begins at sundown, so this is the day of the Passover. When morning came, He is brought unto Pilate.
- **All the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.** They have plotted, they have planned, they had orchestrated the events of this day, the purpose was to bring Him to Pilate in order that He might be condemned to death by crucifixion. They could have taken Him out and stoned Him. They did that to others. When Stephen was before the council and he said things that provoked them, they dragged him out and stoned him to death. But they brought Jesus to Pilate because they were wanting to see Him suffer the death of crucifixion. They wanted to see Him tortured. They wanted to see Him really suffering! They brought Him to Pilate in order that they might get the Roman sentence of execution which was execution by crucifixion.
- **Until fairly recently, Bible critics were criticizing the biblical account** of the life of Jesus, especially the events of the crucifixion. They said there was no record of Pontius Pilate ever existing as the Roman governor. Because no historic evidence had yet been discovered, the critics said it was just a made-up story, with the fictitious governor Pontius Pilate. This biblical criticism was taught in many of the schools for a long time until, as they were doing some archaeological digging in the port city of Caesarea in 1961, they found a tablet that had the name Pontius Pilate and some of the facts concerning his time of governing. Once again, the critics were proven wrong and the Bible right! That record is now in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Judas Hangs Himself

Mat 27:3 *Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful* (to regret, wishes it could be undone) ***and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,***

- **When Judas saw that Jesus had been condemned, he was remorseful and returned the thirty pieces of silver** back to the religious leaders. Some commentators have ascribed to Judas sort of selfless motives for betraying Jesus, saying that Judas was anxious to get the program of the kingdom going. Thinking that Judas was tired of waiting for Jesus to establish the kingdom. He was trying to force the hand of Jesus by betraying Him and turning Him over to the Jews in a private kind of a setting, because they feared the public arrest would create a tumult. We never know what really is in the heart of a man, but it seems to be a very generous kind of a consideration concerning Judas. The scripture more or less points out that the

man was greedy. He was thieving from the common purse which he had charge over. But it does indicate, here, that probably was surprised at the fact that Jesus was condemned. ”

- **He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders**, trying to undo the wrong that he had done. The problem with that is it just cannot be undone! Once you have made that decision to sin, once you have committed the act, you cannot undo it! Note the unchangeable consequences of sin.

Mat 27:4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying (the) innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

- **Notice Judas' testimony concerning Jesus.** He testifies to the fact that Jesus was innocent. Now if anybody should know, it would be Judas. He was one of the disciples, having been with Him for three years. He had watched Jesus under every kind of circumstance. After three years of close relationship, Judas declares that Jesus was innocent.
- **Judas tries to return the money to the religious leaders** saying, *I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.* They responded more or less telling Judas, You did the job! It is over with. We have the One we were after. We have paid you off, and we have no need of you any further.”
- **And they said, What is that to us? You see to it!** In other words, that is your problem. It does not concern us.

Mat 27:5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

- **Judas throws down the betrayal money!** He leaves the temple area, goes out, and hangs himself! He could have turned to the Lord Jesus and would have been forgiven! Our Lord had given him an opportunity to come back to Him there in the Garden of Gethsemane, saying, *“Friend, why have you come?”* Even at this eleventh hour, Judas could have turned to the Lord Jesus and would have been forgiven.
- **What difference between the response and reaction between Judas and Peter!** (*Mat 26:75*) *And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.*
- **Judas went out and hung himself.** Peter went out and wept bitterly. To live another day, to see a glorious ministry, to have the opportunity of being restored and used of God as one of the mighty leaders and the apostles in the early church. There is restoration! There is forgiveness! There is the opportunity again of being used by God! Peter experienced that and was restored.

Mat 27:6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."

Mat 27:7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

- **How pious they are!** Note the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders. They were maliciously persecuting the blessed Jesus, but here, they were seeking to save their credit with the people by this public good act of providing a burying-place for strangers. Thus, they *swallowed a camel, strained at a gnat!*

Mat 27:8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

- **The chief priests hoped in purchasing this ‘potter’s field,’ this burying place, to bury** the remembrance of their own crime. But the people knew better! They took notice of Judas's acknowledgment that he had betrayed the innocent blood, though the chief priests made nothing of it. So, the field became perpetually known as *“the Field of Blood!”*
- **This was a remarkable fulfillment** of prophecy!

Mat 27:9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "AND THEY TOOK THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE VALUE OF HIM WHO WAS PRICED, whom they of the children of Israel priced,

(Mat 26:15) and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

(Zec 11:12) Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

- **Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet:** Fascinating prophecy. Here is the fulfillment. He threw the thirty pieces of silver down in the house of the Lord. Because of a legal technicality, they could not return it to the temple treasury because it had been used to buy blood, and thus they determined that they would buy a potter’s field to bury strangers in.
- **Spoken by Jeremiah** - Attributing the fulfillment of the prophecy to Jeremiah has been questioned, because it is clearly found in (*Zechariah 11:12-13*). The most likely answer seems to be found in the structure of the

Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible is divided into three sections called the Law, Writings, and Prophets. Jesus refers to these divisions in (*Luke 24:44*). The collection of the Prophets began with the book of Jeremiah. The scrolls were sometimes referred to by the name of the first book, which in the case of the Prophets would be Jeremiah. So, when Matthew says that “Jeremiah says,” he probably meant that the prophecy was found in the “Jeremiah Scroll.”

- **It is interesting of the four Zechariah texts, (*Zec 9:9, 11:13, 12:10, and 13:7*)** quoted in the New Testament, (*Mat 21:5, Joh 12:15*); (*Mat 27:9*); (*Joh 19:37, Rev 1:7*); (*Mat 26:31, Mar 14:27*), none are identified as being from the minor prophet, Zechariah.

Mat 27:10 AND GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER'S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME.

(Zec 11:13) And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

- **The price for which Jesus was sold was used to buy a potter's field.** The potter's field was next to the potter's house, being covered with little shards of pottery that had not endured the firing process. Often, when the pots or the vessels were put into the kiln to be fired, they would crack, becoming useless. The potter would just toss them out in the field. Over time that piece of land would become almost worthless because you could not really plant anything. Its only practical use was that for a burial ground, to bury poor people or strangers in.
- **Broken pottery, field of broken pottery, purchased by the price of the blood of Jesus.** We can think of the broken lives. The Bible speaks of us as being earthen vessels, clay pots, a bunch of crackpots, worthless, but yet redeemed and purchased by Jesus Christ! Usefulness being brought out of it. That becomes a very beautiful picture. Joseph, who was sold by his brothers for twenty pieces of silver, is another type in the Old Testament of Jesus.
- **Thirty pieces of silver is mentioned also in the law, and it was the price** that you had to pay if your ox gored a slave of your neighbors. The price of a slave! ***The value of Him who was priced!*** Thrown down in the temple, used to buy a potter's field. Just think that was the price Judas agreed upon to betray our Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus Before Pilate

Mat 27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."

- ***Are You the King of the Jews?*** This is quoted in all four gospels. ***It is as you say.*** "Or "you said it," or it is the way of affirmative, yes I am. The acknowledgment that He was the King of the Jews.

Mat 27:12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

Mat 27:13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?"

Mat 27:14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

- **Another fulfillment of prophecy!** In Isaiah chapter fifty-three, the prophecy concerning Jesus, (*Isa 53:7*) *He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.* In the face of all these false accusations, these wild kind of claims that were being stated against Jesus, He remained silent! In so much that Pilate even *marveled greatly* that He did not seek to defend Himself against the wild and spurious charges.
- **We know that Jesus' testimony of silence** in not confusing Pilate regarding His innocence, stuck in his mind. Later Pilate will have the charge put in on the cross, ***"This is Jesus, the King of the Jews!"***
- **On rare occasions, there may be a time to defend one's cause or one's self, but those times are rare.** Usually when we rise to our own defense, we would be better off to remain silent, trusting in God to defend us.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

Mat 27:15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.

- **Pilate makes several great mistakes** in this entire situation. He is going to soon recognize that he is being pulled into something. He is realizing that all of this accusation against Jesus is false. Jesus is completely innocent. That He has been delivered up because of the envy of the religious leaders. Ultimately, he really resents that he is being manipulated. There is no accusations worthy of He has done. What Pilate ought to have

done, he should have slammed the door at moment. He should have put a stop to all of this. There is no reason for His death or capital punishment here. Get out of my property! Get out of my hearing hall! Get out of here!

- **But we see Pilate, failing to end it,** moves forward, trying through **compromise and appeasement, losing control to the mob, by asking them to decide what to do with Jesus! We must never ask others what to do with Jesus!**

(Mat 27:17) "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

(Mat 27:21) "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

(Mat 27:22) "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"

(Mat 27:23) "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

- **If he had only done the right thing,** as soon as he realized what the right thing was, everything would have changed. Pilate's name is mud in human history. His name is ever associated with what he did with Jesus Christ on that day. If he had simply said on this day. This is wrong. I will not have any part in this and slam the door on all of it! No, I am not going to be a part of that! Everyone would have remembered him differently in history. There is a bigger picture being played prophetically, but he is still responsible.

Mat 27:16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

- **Here at the feast, Pilate tries compromise.** He is going to try to appease them. I have to get along with the Jewish leaders. How can I get out of this? He remembered at the time of the Passover, it was the custom of the Roman governor to release whatever prisoner of the Jews that Rome had, in order to build good will. This comes into his mind. He thinks this is the way out. I am going to give them the choice between Jesus and a notorious criminal, by the name of Barabbas, a murderer, a robber, and an insurrectionist. Here is the attempt to compromise in the middle of this situation.

Mat 27:17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

- **Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"** Figuring that the people would surely say do not set Barabbas free in our society again. That guy is dangerous killer.
- **Notice the choice! Who are you choosing?** Barabbas, standing for death. Or Jesus, who stands for life. Think of all those around us today, who are still choosing Barabbas over Jesus!

Mat 27:18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

- **Because of envy:** Pilate could see through the religious leaders' trumped-up and manipulative charges. He knew their motive was really *envy*, and not any other concern.

Mat 27:19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

- **While he was sitting on the judgment seat.** We see Pilate failing to stop this whole affair and release Jesus. Justice was not done! Pilate had all the evidence he needed to do the right thing and release Jesus, right then! Pilate could see Jesus' dignity, strength, knows that he was no criminal or insurrectionist. He knew the charges against Jesus were unjust and only a result of the envy of the religious leaders. He marveled that Jesus was so at peace in God, that he did not need to answer a single question! He had already declared (*Luk 23:4*) *So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."*
- **But Pilate is being torn!** On the one side, his wife, and his conscience, what he knew to be right. On the other side, the crowd, the pressure of the crowd, pushing him to do what he knew was wrong. (*Joh 19:12*) *From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."*
- **How often the crowd's pressure is more than we can handle.** The peer pressure or the pressure of the group. Many people have gotten into bad situations because they did not have the strength to stand up against the pressure of the crowd. It is a horrible thing, crowd pressure! Unfortunately, people so often foolishly listen to the crowd rather than to the voice of God's Spirit that is speaking to their heart. We read in (*Luk 23:23*) *But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.* The crowd prevailed. Here we are told, the governor said, "Why, what evil has he done? But they just cried all the more! Let him be crucified."
- **There is a great lesson for us here! As soon as Pilate realized that Jesus was innocent, he should have stopped the whole accusative procedure,** saying there is no legitimate case here! This court is adjourned! Get out of here! But he sought to appease the opposition. The further down the road he went the greater the traction and the boldness of the enemy, who were getting a foothold.
- **For us!** As soon as we realize the conviction of the Holy Spirit in warning us that "this is wrong!" **We should stop right then! Go no further!** The sooner we stop the better! The further we go down the wrong road, the more difficult it is to stop! **Pilate** should have shut the door that second, because as he

keeps that door open, the longer it goes, the harder it is, then, for him to stop what is happening!

- **The same is true in your life and my life, right now!** Is there something you are getting pulled into? Something that maybe even leading yourself into and you know that it is wrong. You think it might be easier to say no, further down the road! It will only be harder then, to stop what is happening! The moment we know that it wrong, that is the moment to act decisively! Pilate made this big mistake! May none of us make that mistake, right now, is whatever we are facing!

Mat 27:20 *But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.*

Mat 27:21 *The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"*

- **Barabbas or Jesus?** What a contrast! Life or death? Jesus represents life. Barabbas represents death! Jesus who went around doing good, healing all manner of sicknesses, preaching a gospel of love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, all marks of Jesus, raising those that are dead, and the people are asked their choice. Do you want a man who takes others' lives or a man who gives life? And the people made that horrible choice. Barabbas, release unto us Barabbas.
- **From the beginning of mankind!** From Adam, we see the tendency or the being prone to making poor choices! Here he was in the garden of Eden, with all of these wonderful fruit trees. God said, you may freely eat of all the trees that are in the garden, except the one there in the midst of the garden. You are not to eat of that for "in the day that you eat of it, you'll die, you will surely die." The tree of death. In the garden of Eden there was another tree that was the tree of life. For after Adam ate of the first tree, the forbidden fruit, God put the cherubim to guard the garden to keep Adam from coming back and eating of the tree of life and live forever in this sinful state.
- **Adam had the choice in the garden, the tree of death or the tree of life!** Remarkable, he chose to eat of the tree of death. That is hard to understand. Here, people are given a choice: Jesus or Barabbas. They chose Barabbas.
- **We should not be quick to judge them!** Today God gives man a choice, a choice between life and death! Many people are choosing the path that leads to death, rather than the path of life in Jesus Christ. If you are quick to judge Adam and to judge that crowd that were saying release unto Barabbas, unless you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are with that crowd! You are following their same pattern. You are choosing death over life. Who have you chosen or who are you choosing?

Mat 27:22 *Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"*

Mat 27:23 *Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"*

- **Pilate then asked the question**, when they said release unto us Barabbas. Pilate asked, *What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?* What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah? **Never let anyone make that decision for you**, in terms of what you do with Christ! And certainly not a crowd or a mob! That is something we have to decide for ourselves! Pilate knew what to do. He already know what to do. Do not leave it with the crowd!
- **What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? This was the question that Pilate was wrestling with and one with which you must wrestle.** He was not just asking for himself! That is a question that every man must face! You have to determine yourself what you are going to do with Jesus who is called the Messiah. Even as Pilate had to face that question, so you must face that question!.
- **Pilate tried to avoid it! You cannot, I cannot avoid it!** Each of us are making our decisions concerning Jesus Christ. To receive or to reject. To believe or not to believe. To confess or to deny. Not to believe is just that, it is not to believe! You see, if you do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then you have already made your commitment. Not to confess is to deny! Not to receive Him is to reject Him! You cannot be on the fence! Jesus said, (Luk 11:23a) He who is not with Me is against Me. You cannot be neutral concerning Jesus Christ. You cannot take a "no vote" position. You have already determined one way or the other, not to be for Him is to be against Him. Not to receive Him is to reject Him!
- **What was Barabbas thinking, when he may have heard** from his cell, his name being shouted by the crowd. Then hearing "Let Him be crucified! When soldiers came to his cell, he must have thought it was time for him to die a tortured death for the murders he had committed. But when the soldiers said, "Barabbas, you are a guilty man – but you will be released because Jesus will die in your place," Barabbas would have known the meaning of the cross better than most! One wonders if he ever took it to heart.



Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

Mat 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

- **He tried to exonerate himself from the guilt.** But you cannot do that! If you are not for Him, you are against Him. Pilate is guilty! He had the power to release Jesus, but he listened to the crowd! He was most fearful of what Tiberius Caesar would do to him if a riot or uproar of the crowd occurred. He already was on shaky ground with Rome. He also was more concerned with pleasing or appeasing the Jewish leaders and those who had been stirred up, than he was in pleasing God! How often am I a "people pleaser?"

Mat 27:25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

- **What a horrible thing, I am sure they did not realize** what they were saying. Surely it happened. You can read the *Wars of the Jews* by Josephus and the horrible siege of Jerusalem and the tremendous, awful, carnage and bloodshed when the Roman troops came and besieged Jerusalem and took Jerusalem in 70 A.D. under Titus. The blood of the Jews that filled the streets of Jerusalem, More than a million Jews were slaughtered in that holocaust.
- **Notice what was said in the fifth chapter of Acts**, when the disciples, Peter and John are brought before the council, they said to them, (**Act 5:28**) saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" Their consciences were not at ease, and the remembrance of the death of Jesus would occur to them at once at the sight of the apostles. It is amazing how people turn when they begin to realize the consequences of what was said. *You intend to bring His blood on us and on our children.* You are guilty. You said His blood be upon you and your children.
- **Atonement for Unsolved Murders – (Deu 21:6-8)** *And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley. [7] Then they shall answer and say, 'Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it. [8] Provide atonement, O LORD, for Your people Israel, whom You have redeemed, and do not lay innocent blood to the charge of Your people Israel.' And atonement shall be provided on their behalf for the blood.*

Mat 27:26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

- **Only the briefest of details of the scourging of Jesus** are really given. You go to Jerusalem today and they have the church of the flagellation. The place where they say Jesus was actually scourged. But yet none of the gospel writers really elaborate on the scourging of Jesus. They do not go into the details of the scourging of Jesus.
- **We know from history what the scourging entailed.** It involved the prisoner being tied to a post with his back in a bent over so that the back is taunt. The scourge that was used was a leather whip with little bits of lead and glass imbedded in the whip designed to, as it was pulled off, to rip off chunks of flesh. We know from history that it was an extremely cruel device, being used as sort of a third-degree kind of a torture to force and elicit confessions from prisoners. It was known as "a half death," to prepare the prisoner for the crucifixion, not to kill, but to bring him very close to death!
- **When Paul in the book of Acts, had made some statements** to the assembled multitudes that sort of created a riot condition, as the Roman soldiers brought him into the palace there for his own protection, the Roman centurion, as he was walking by, said, Scourge him, find out what he said. As they preparing to scourge Paul, he asked the question, Is it lawful to scourge a Roman citizen who has not been accused of anything? Paul was asked, Are you a Roman citizen? Paul said, Yes, I am! Thus, he was spared the scourging, in that the Romans, considering the cruelty of the cross, forbid that any Roman citizen, be subjected to it!
- **But Jesus was scourged. The purpose was to elicit confessions.** But little is said. Yet when Isaiah was prophesying concerning Jesus, said (**Isa 53:5**) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.* It was prophesied that He would be scourged. Peter wrote, (**1Pe 2:24**) *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.* Yet so little is mentioned of it by the gospel writers. Just almost as a passing thought, "When he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."

Jesus Is Mocked

Mat 27:27 *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium* (a place in the Antonia Fortress - the court house or common hall) **and gathered the whole garrison around Him.**

- **Gathered the whole garrison**, having up to six hundred soldiers, gathered around Jesus, although only a quaternion, four soldiers, was needed to carry out the execution. The soldiers were free to do with Him as they pleased. He became a plaything for this brutal, cruel crowd. How they continued to brutalize Him!

Mat 27:28 *And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.*

- **Jesus' crucifixion had not yet begun, but His humiliation certainly had**, and it now continues. He was publicly stripped. In that the charge against Him was that He was the King of the Jews, they mockingly, put a scarlet robe on Him. This would be extremely painful as much of His body was now a bleeding, open wound!

Mat 27:29 *When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"*

- **Thorns came in with sin, and were part of the curse** that was the product of sin, (*Gen 3:18*). Therefore Christ, being made a curse for us, and dying to remove the curse from us, felt the piercing pain and hurt of those thorns, as a crown to Him. For His sufferings for us were His glory!
- **A reed in His right hand.** Worldly kings hold ornate and glorious scepters, symbolizing their power. Mockingly, they give Jesus as a scepter a thin, worthless reed.
- **They bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"** It was frightful what they did to Him! Jesus had already been mocked by the Jewish leaders. Now the Romans mock Him as King! Everything was intended to humiliate Jesus, as well the Jews. Consider what the appearance of this King was like. They must have thought that it was pitiful if this is what the Jewish King was like.
- **There is a lesson here for us believers.** If only we were half as creative in devising honor for our King Jesus as the Jews and Roman soldier were in planning and executing His dishonor! May we offer the respect, esteem and admiration that is due Him!



Mat 27:30 *Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.*

- **Then they** (Roman soldiers) **spat on Him**, just as the Jewish leaders had abused Him earlier in the High Priest's hall. In a most mocking disrespect, instead of kissing Him, they spit in His face. That blessed face which outshines the sun, and before which the angels cover theirs, was thus polluted. It seems strange that the sons of men should ever do such a thing, to the Son of God! (*Isa 50:6*) **I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.** (*Lam 3:30*) *Let him give his cheek to the one who strikes him And be full of reproach.*
- **And took the reed and struck Him on the head.** That mocking crown, which they had made, they now make the real instrument of their cruelty, and His pain. They struck Him, probably upon the crown of thorns, and so struck them into His head, that they might penetrate deeper, making the wound more painful. Causing Him pain and more pain was their greatest pleasure. Thus, He was rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. All this misery and shame He underwent, that He might purchase for us everlasting life, and joy, and glory. **His face was so marred, beating Him on the face** with the reed that they had put in His hand, the stick, buffeting Him, putting a sack over His head, hitting Him, pulling out His beard by the chunks. The Bible says His face was so marred you could not recognize Him as a human being. Isaiah said, **Isaiah declares, (Isa 53:2, 5)** *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. [5] But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*
- **When they were through with Jesus**, according to the prophesy of Isaiah, (*Isa 52:14*) *Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men.*

Mat 27:31 *And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.*

- **As Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.** God wrote about it over five hundred years before it took place. Now, it is happening, just as was prophesied in the scriptures.
- **And when they had mocked Him. (Psa 69:7) Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.**
(Psa 69:19, 20) *You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. [20] Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none,* as the psalmist was prophesying of our Savior.
(Heb 12:2) *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- **And led Him away to be crucified,** by a somewhat circular route, to expose the death march to as many citizens as possible to let them know the penalty coming against Rome. Like most crucifixion victims, Jesus had to carry the wooden cross He would hang upon. The weight of the entire cross was normally about three hundred pounds. The victim usually only carried the crossbar, about 75 to 125 pounds. When carrying the crossbar, he was usually stripped naked, and his hands were often tied to the wooden crossbar. The upright beams of a cross were usually permanently fixed in a visible place outside of the city walls, beside a major road, so many could observe the slow death.
- **They led Him away to be crucified. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,** as a sacrifice to the altar. We may well imagine how they hurried Him on, and dragged Him along, with all the speed possible, lest anything should intervene to prevent their cruel rage with his precious blood, loading Him with taunts and reproaches, and treated Him as the off-scouring of all things. They led Him away *out of the city;* for Christ, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, *suffered without the gate,* as if He that was the glory of them that *waited for redemption* in Jerusalem was not worthy to live among them.
- **When Jesus said, (Mat 16:24) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me, this** is exactly the scene He had in mind. The cross was a way to execute people. Today, most of us have sanitized and look at the cross as just a ritual. What would we think if Jesus said, “Walk down death row daily and follow Me?” Taking up your cross was not a journey. It was only a one-way death march.
- **What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, our Jesus.** We are so thankful, we are so grateful that You, Lord Jesus, were willing to bear the shame, the mockery, the jeering, the scorn, the suffering. That You might forgive us our sins; make us children of God; adopt us into the family of God, giving us all of the privileges of being children of God. We thank You, Lord, for washing and cleansing us from our guilt. May we never, never forget what You have done for us! Lord, please keep us near the cross! May we ever glory in what You wrought for us when You gave Your life as a ransom for all.
- **How can we even imagine the price that He paid, out of His love for you and for me? And can it be?**

CLOSING SONG:

AND CAN IT BE? Charles Wesley, Gaither (2:23)

And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Assignment for next week: **Read (Matthew Chapter 27:32-66), continuing that great prophecy and account of our Lord’s crucifixion! What Holy ground!**