

The Passion of the Christ Movie and Study – Week 6 of 7

Jesus is Crucified; One Criminal is Saved!

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General Information:

- Schedule: Saturdays 3:00; Sundays 10:30
- 6th grade and older are welcome to attend!
- *Caution!* The movie is brutal, *but it does portray what Jesus endured for us all!*
- Let us realize the terrible reality of sin *and greatly rejoice in God's gift of salvation!*
- This study will conclude on Palm Sunday and *be excellent preparation for Holy Week!*

A Summary of our 7-Week Study (The 119-minute movie will be viewed in seven 17-minute segments):

- 1: *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane and is Arrested!*
- 2: *Jesus is Tried by the Sanhedrin; Peter's Denial; Judas' Death!*
- 3: *Jesus Before Pilate, Herod, and Pilate!*
- 4: *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned!*
- 5: *Jesus' Journey to Golgotha!*
- 6: *Jesus is Crucified; One Criminal is Saved!*
- 7: *Jesus' Speaks, Dies, is Buried, and is Raised!*

Today's Movie Clip! (90:04 – 106:29 or 1:30:04 – 1:46:29)

The Crucifixion (Matt. 27:33-37; Mark 15:22-26; Luke 23:33-34; John 19:17-27)

^{NIV} **John 19:17** Carrying his own cross, he went out to **the place of the Skull** (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

1. Names for Jesus' place of crucifixion:
 - a. Pronunciation in English: "the place of the skull"
 - b. Pronunciation in Aramaic: "Golgotha"
 - c. Pronunciation in Latin: "Calvary"

¹⁸ Here **they crucified him, and with him two others--one on each side and Jesus in the middle.**

2. *When?* Only Mark adds these words: "It was the third hour when they crucified

him" (Mark 15:25 NIV). Following Jewish keeping time, that is 9 AM.

3. *Crucified.* "A Roman means of execution in which the victim was nailed to a cross. Heavy, wrought-iron nails were driven through the wrists and the heel bones" (CSSB, 1537). See the sample...
4. Matthew and Mark add this information: "There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it" (Matt. 27:34 NIV). Such an offering seems to have been a slight show of mercy – *before the nails were driven through Jesus' body*, but He refused so He could be fully alert as He finished His mission by receiving *our sins and our eternal punishment.*
5. *One on each side.* "Perhaps meant as a final insult, but it brings out the important truth that in his death Jesus was identified with sinners" (CSSB, 1644). This is the prophecy: "...he poured out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12 NIV).
6. **JESUS' FIRST WORDS FROM THE CROSS:** Only Luke includes these words: "**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing**" (Luke 23:34 NIV). Who may have been the *primary people* for whom Jesus prayed that prayer?

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

7. As mentioned last week, "One of the soldiers carried a sign on which the condemned man's name and crime were displayed. Later the sign would be attached to the top of the cross." Doing so seemed to be part of the intimidation tactics of the Romans: WATCH OUT,

DON'T COMMIT THE SAME CRIME or **YOUR NAME** will appear on our sign, **YOU** will carry your cross, and **WE** will nail you to it!

8. *Jesus of Nazareth*. His first name is **Jesus**; His title is **Christ**. People were identified with their first name and the place where they grew up:

- a. Simon of Cyrene
- b. Joseph of Arimathea
- c. Jesus of Nazareth
- d. Jesus of Nazareth, the carpenter's son

9. *The King of the Jews*. Jesus did make that claim, even though His kingdom was not of this world. Instead, even now, *Jesus rules and reigns in the hearts and lives of those who trust in Him as their Savior*.

Do those words describe your life? Y N

²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

10. *Aramaic*. "One of the languages of the Jewish people at that time (along with Hebrew).
11. *Latin*. The official language of Rome.
12. *Greek*. The common language of communication throughout the empire" (CSSB, 1644). *The Romans wanted everyone to read the sign!*

²¹⁻²² **The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."**

13. Keep in mind: Pilate tried at least three times to release Jesus; furthermore, it was primarily the persistence of the chief priests and their stirring up of the crowd that led to Jesus' crucifixion. Therefore, Pilate, *possibly as a way to get back at the chief priests*, wrote what he did and refused to change it!

²³ **When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes**, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with **the undergarment remaining**. **This garment was seamless**, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

14. *They divided his clothes*. Last week it was noted that the person was usually naked as he carried his cross from the beating location to the crucifixion location; however, for Jesus, *since His clothes were divided up just before He was crucified*, He probably had them on during His journey to *the place of the skull*.

15. *undergarment*. "A type of shirt, reaching from the neck to the knees or ankles" (CSSB, 1644).

16. *seamless*. "Therefore, too valuable to be cut up" (CSSB 1644).

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." **This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled** which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing" [Ps. 22:18]. So this is what the soldiers did.

17. We are Bible-believing Christians; therefore, we are not surprised when we see various Scriptures fulfilled. Furthermore, *we know with confidence that all unfulfilled prophecies in the Scriptures will certainly come to pass according to God's perfect timing!*

²⁵⁻²⁷ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother [Mary], his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas [most likely Mary's sister-in-law], and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "**Dear woman, here is your son,**" and to the disciple, "**Here is your mother.**" From that time on, this disciple [John] took her into his home.

18. **JESUS' SECOND WORDS FROM THE CROSS** – which are recorded only by John: *Why did Jesus say those words?*

- a. Jesus had half-brothers: “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?” (Matt. 13:55 NIV).
- b. *the disciple whom he loved*.
 - i. After the foot washing, the Bible says: “One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him” (John 13:23 NIV).
 - ii. CSSB 1634: “Usually thought to be John...” John is also the one shown in the movie at the foot of Jesus’ cross with the women.

Jesus Mocked on the Cross (Matt. 27:39-43; Mark 15:27:32; Luke 23:35-38):

^{NIV} **Matthew 27:39-40** Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 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!”

19. Remember what came up at Jesus’ trial: “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days’” (Matt. 26:61 NIV).

⁴¹⁻⁴³ **In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.** “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. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

20. *Jesus is all that He claimed!* He is the Son of God, the King of Israel! He was able to come down from His cross, *but He chose to stay there for our salvation!* When His work was done, He laid down His life, but God raised Him on the third day!

The Two Thieves (Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32b; Luke 23:39-43):

^{NIV} **Luke 23:39** One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

21. Initially *both* criminals insulted Jesus: “In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him” (Matt. 27:44 NIV).

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ But the other criminal rebuked him. “**Don’t you fear God,**” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **We are punished justly,** for we are getting what our deeds deserve. **But this man has done nothing wrong.**”

22. *By the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit*, one criminal was brought to †fear God, †confess his sins, and †see Jesus’ true innocence!

⁴² Then he said, “**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**”

23. *Also, by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit*, the criminal expressed his faith in Jesus as His Savior!

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “**I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.**”

24. JESUS’ THIRD WORDS FROM THE CROSS: Though the criminal was a sinner, he received God’s forgiveness through his God-given faith in Jesus; therefore, *Jesus assured him that he would immediately go to paradise when he died!*

Note: Next week we will cover Jesus’ fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh words from the cross.

Other Thoughts:

25. Flashback to John 10, where Jesus said: “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father” (John 10:17-18 NIV). Let’s us be certain, no one took Jesus’ life, *but HE laid it down for us!*

26. Jesus was literally cursed for us: 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” (Gal. 3:13 NIV).

27. Flashback to the Passover meal and the words of institution: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20. Jesus is the *Ultimate Passover Lamb*; every Passover lamb sacrificed since the time of Moses pointed ahead to Jesus’ coming and giving His life for our sins!

28. Jesus loved us in the greatest possible way: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 NIV). *But we didn’t deserve it*: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8 NIV).

29. Flashback to Jesus after He washed His disciples’ feet: *What did that mean?* Jesus told them and us:

a. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35 NIV).

b. *The Maundy Thursday connection*:

i. The word translated “command” could also be translated “mandate,” which comes from the Latin word: “mandatum,” from which we get our word: “Maundy.”

ii. Therefore, saying *Maundy Thursday* rather than *Holy Thursday* should cause us to remember Jesus’ foot washing and His *mandate* that we – as His followers – *love one another!*

30. Flashback to these words: Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:5-6 NIV).

Next Week: Jesus’ Speaks, Dies, is Buried, and is Raised!