

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42



The Story

As Jesus hung on the cross, suffering all the pain of hell for our sins, darkness covered the land from noon until 3:00 in the afternoon. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Because of the Hebrew words He used some people thought he was calling Elijah.

Jesus then said, "I thirst." They brought him a sponge soaked with sour wine and lifted it to his lips with a stick.

Jesus knew that he had paid for all the sins of the world. He said his last words, "It is finished," and "Father into thy hands I commend my spirit," and He died.

When Jesus died several miracles happened:

- ▶ The earth shook,
- ▶ Rocks were split,
- ▶ Believers came out of their graves and appeared to people in Jerusalem, and
- ▶ The thick temple curtain, which kept the people from ever seeing the Most Holy Place, tore from the top to the bottom.

The centurion in charge of the soldiers at the cross said, "Surely, this was a righteous man. Surely, this was the Son of God."

Because it was getting late on Friday, and the next day was the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders did not want Jesus and the two other men left hanging on the crosses. They went to Pilate and asked him to have his soldiers break the legs of the three men to cause

them to die more quickly. The soldiers were ordered to do this. When they came to Jesus, they were surprised to find that he was already dead.

Because the Bible had said that none of his bones would be broken, they instead thrust a spear into his side to make certain he was dead. Blood and water flowed out of the wound.

A rich man named Joseph from Arimathea came to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus, to bury it. Surprised to hear that Jesus was already dead, Pilate questioned the centurion. He then granted Joseph permission to take the body of Jesus. Nicodemus, another secret believer, also came to help take Jesus' body down from the cross. Nicodemus and Joseph wrapped the body of Jesus in fine linen cloth with spices, and laid Jesus in a new grave carved out of rock, which Joseph had prepared for himself. Then a large stone was rolled in front of the door of the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and another Mary watched the men bury Jesus, and then went home to prepare more spices and oils to finish the burial after the Sabbath day.

Jesus' enemies came to Pilate and said, "We remember how Jesus said after three days I will rise." They asked Pilate to put a seal on the stone and soldiers to stand guard so his disciples could not steal the body and claim Jesus had arisen. Pilate gave them permission to make the grave as secure as they could.

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Review

1. By what sign did the earth show how deeply Jesus was suffering?
 - a) lightning
 - b) darkness
 - c) rain
2. Pick three things that happened as Jesus died.
 - a) volcano eruptions
 - b) earthquake
 - c) strong wind
 - d) floods
 - e) dead people arose
 - f) temple veil split
3. How did a soldier prove that Jesus was dead?
 - a) broke His legs
 - b) hit His head
 - c) pierced His side
4. Where was Jesus buried?
 - a) in the field of blood
 - b) in Joseph's grave
 - c) in a thieves' tomb
5. Who buried Jesus?
 - a) Peter and John
 - b) Nicodemus and Joseph
 - c) Mary and Joseph
6. Why did they have to bury Jesus in a hurry?
 - a) a storm was coming
 - b) the Sabbath was beginning soon
 - c) someone might steal the body
7. Choose two ways Jesus' enemies made the grave secure
 - a) soldier guards
 - b) a lock
 - c) a seal
 - d) guard dogs

For You To Consider

1. Explain how our death will be different from Jesus' death.
2. In what way will Jesus' death be like our death?

Passage - Fill in the blanks with the words given in the WORD BOX.

He _____ Himself and became _____ unto the point of _____ even the death of the _____. (Philippians 2:8)

cross	humbled	obedient	death
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Talking to Jesus

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for coming to earth to suffer and die for my sins. Please make me always sure that when I die I will go to heaven to be with You. Amen.