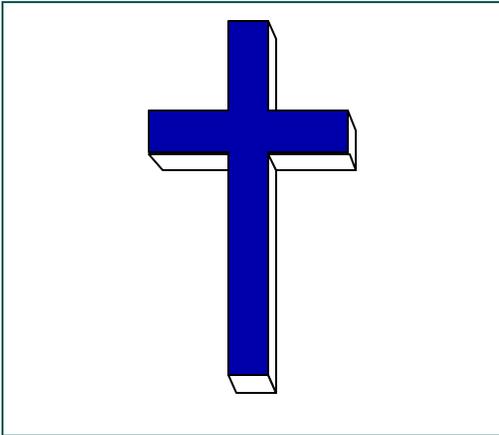


The Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30



What did the cross mean to the people of Jesus' day?

What does the cross mean to you?

Why is the cross the symbol for Christianity?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. As we hear about the suffering and death of Jesus, help us to realize the seriousness of sin in our lives. Make us truly sorry for our

sins and help us to look to Jesus and the cross for forgiveness. Bless our study of Your Word today. Amen.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

(Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30)

Pilate was afraid of what the people would do so he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus out of the city to a hill called Golgotha which means "The Place of the Skull." Jesus had to carry the cross on which He would be nailed, but He was so weak from the terrible beating the night before that He collapsed under the weight of the cross. A man in the crowd named Simon from Cyrene was made to carry the cross.

Jesus was offered sour wine mixed with gall to help numb the pain of the crucifixion, but He refused to drink it.

After the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

The soldiers that had put Jesus on the cross divided His garments among themselves. His inner robe didn't have a seam in it so they cast lots (like throwing dice) to see who would get it.

Pilate had a sign put on the cross to tell the people why Jesus was being punished. These words were written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek - *Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews*.

Two other criminals were crucified with Jesus, the one on His right side and the other on His left. The one criminal mocked Jesus and said, "If You are the Christ (Messiah), save Yourself and us." But the other one scolded him and said, "Don't you fear God at all? We deserve to die for



our crimes, but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Jesus also showed His love and concern for His mother when He saw her at the foot of the cross with His disciple John. He said to her, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to John, "Behold your mother!" Then John took Mary to his home.

At noon darkness fell over the whole world. The darkness lasted until 3:00 p.m. At the height of Jesus' suffering, He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" At this time He was suffering the punishment of hell for the sins of the whole world.

When Jesus knew that His suffering had paid for the sins of the world, He called out, "I thirst!" One of the soldiers filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick and put it in His mouth.

Then Jesus shouted, "It is finished!" This was a cry of victory. Jesus had completed the work of paying for the sins of the world.

After that He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Then He bowed His head and died.

When Jesus died, the heavy curtain in the temple was torn in half. There was also an earthquake. Rocks were split apart and graves were opened. Many believers who had died came out of their graves

and appeared in Jerusalem. When the Roman Captain saw these things, He said, "Surely, this was the Son of God!"

Outer Aim

Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified.

Discussion Questions

1. Where is Cyrene located? Why do you think Simon was in Jerusalem at this time?
2. How was Scripture fulfilled when the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing? (Matthew 27:35)
3. How was it possible for the thief on the cross to receive eternal life?
4. What did Jesus say to show that He was suffering the pain of hell?
5. Why could only the sinless Son of God pay the price for the sins of the world?
6. What was the significance of the veil in the temple being torn in half?
7. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?
8. How do you feel about your sins when you think of what they cost Jesus?

Inner Aim

Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified to pay for the sins of the world.

Using Your Bibles - Find the Scripture reference for each of the seven “words” that Jesus spoke from the cross.

Father forgive them..... _____

Today you will be with Me in Paradise. _____

Woman behold your son. _____

My God, My God..... _____

I thirst. _____

It is finished. _____

Father into Your hands..... _____

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

Matthew 20:28 -

John 1:29 -

Ephesians 1:7 -

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

Hymn - Read the words of Hymn 179. Tell what these words mean to you. Try to put it into your own words.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, when I hear again how You suffered and died for my sins, it makes me feel very sorry for all the wrong I have done. You took the punishment that I should have suffered and willingly died for me. Forgive me for all the sins I have committed and help me to follow in Your footsteps daily. Help me to show my thankfulness to You by my words and actions. Help me to love others as You love me. Keep me faithful to You and Your Holy Word. In Your name I pray. Amen.