

Together with Jesus

Week 14 - Matthew 27 and 28 - Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 27:1-10

Judas has remorse

Judas changes his mind about having betrayed Jesus, but it is too late. Frustrated, he goes off to hang himself, fulfilling certain prophecies.

- **What do you think? Did Judas have repentance? Or just remorse?**

Matthew 27:11-26

Jesus Before Pilate

The religious rulers bring Jesus before Pilate. Pilate is unimpressed with the charges against Jesus, but still allows the crowds to make the decision about Jesus.

- **What do you think about Pilate? What may have been going through his mind as he talked to Jesus?**

Matthew 27:27-32

Jesus Mocked

Pilate hands Jesus over to the Roman troops who put Him through basically physical and psychological torture before conscripting someone to carry His cross.

- **What do you think the purpose of this torture would have been for a “normal” criminal?**

Matthew 27:33-56

Crucifixion

Matthew tells the story of the Crucifixion with various allusions to the Old Testament, especially Psalms 22 and 69.

- **What stands out to you as you read this impactful portion of Scripture?**

Matthew 27:57-66

Burial of Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea negotiates with Pilate for Jesus' body and makes sure it is buried before nightfall. The religious leaders urge caution.

- **What do you think Joseph of Arimathea was thinking in this decision?**

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Matthew 28:1-16**Resurrection**

The women go to the tomb at the first opportunity after the Sabbath to find an angel sitting upon the stone. They are told to return, which they do, finding Jesus on the way back. Later, the soldiers come back, and are paid to keep quiet.

- **What does Matthew's inclusion of the story of the soldiers tell us?**

Matthew 28:17-20**Great Commission**

Jesus tells His disciples to gather in Galilee and sends them out to the "ends of the earth" with the mission of making disciples through teaching and baptism.

- **Matthew could have ended his Gospel in many ways. Why do you think he chose this as his ending?**

Red Letter Challenge this week – Be My Witnesses

This week, take Jesus' words from Acts 1:8, "You will be my witnesses" to heart. A witness is simply someone who is called to give their report of what has happened and what they have seen. How can you be a witness to Christ? How can you report to a fellow believer or an interested person who doesn't have faith yet?