

BIBLE STORY: GOOD FRIDAY—JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

Mark 15:16-39

Central Thoughts

- Jesus was mocked and made fun of because they did not believe in His love for sinners.
- Simon the Cyrenian was called upon to carry Jesus' cross as a sign to us that we are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus.
- Jesus was "numbered with the transgressors" because He took our sin upon Himself.
- Jesus was punished for our sins by being forsaken by the Father.
- Jesus showed Himself to be the true King of the Jews (the Christ), the Savior of sinners, not by coming down from the cross but by willingly dying for our sins.
- The veil of the temple was torn in two as a sign that the sin that separated us from God was taken away by Jesus' suffering and death for us.
- Because Jesus faithfully died for our sins, the centurion rightly confessed, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

Discussion Questions

What is the Praetorium?

Pontius Pilate's headquarters.

How did the soldiers and others show that they did not believe that Jesus was the King of the Jews?

They mocked Jesus, made fun of Him, hit Him, put a purple robe on Him, and placed a crown of thorns on His head.

Who was made to carry Jesus' cross, and what does this teach us?

Simon a Cyrenian. We are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus by faith in Him.

Where was Jesus crucified, and what does this show us?

At Golgotha, the Place of a Skull, because Jesus (the Seed of the Woman) would crush the Serpent's head according to the first promise of the Gospel (Genesis 3:15).

What was written on the sign above Jesus and what does it mean?

"The King of the Jews" — Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior and the Son of God, who came to die for the sins of the whole world.

Why was Jesus crucified between two robbers and what does it mean?

To fulfill the Scriptures that "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). It teaches us that Jesus took the sins of the whole world upon Himself.

How did they make fun of Jesus as He hung on the cross and what does it mean?

They said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save." They believed that if Jesus really were the King of the Jews and the Son of God that He would save Himself.

How did Jesus prove that He really was the Savior?

Jesus saved us from our sins, not by coming down from the cross but by dying for our sins according to the Scriptures.

What statement of Jesus did the passersby remind Jesus of?

"You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

What was Jesus predicting when He talked about the temple?

He was talking about the temple of His own body, which would die and rise from the dead the third day according to the Scriptures. (See John 2:19-22).

What time are the sixth and the ninth hours, and what did the darkness signify?

12 Noon to 3 p.m. The darkness signified sin, death, and the judgment of hell that we all deserved.

What is the meaning of Jesus' words, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and where did these words come from?

Jesus was praying Psalm 22 from the cross. Jesus' words in this prayer show us that He really did suffer God's wrath and punishment for the world's sin.

What happened at the temple when Jesus died and what does it mean?

The veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, signifying that the sin that had separated us from God had been taken away by His suffering and death upon the cross.

What did the centurion rightly confess after Jesus had died?

"Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

Meditation on the Bible Story

Jesus was mocked and made fun of by those who did not believe in Him because they did not believe in the Gospel of Jesus' love for sinners. Simon, a Cyrenian, was compelled to carry Jesus' cross as a sign that we, as Christians, are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus for our salvation. To "take up our cross and follow Jesus" means that we live every day, confessing our sins and looking to Jesus for our salvation. Jesus was crucified with criminals to show that He took the sins of the world upon Himself. If He had come down from the cross and saved Himself, then He would not have been the Son of God and Savior of the world. But Jesus willingly suffered and died for us. He bore God's wrath and the punishment that we deserved for our sins. This is shown in the words of Psalm 22 that Jesus prayed from the cross, "My God, My God why have You forsaken Me." He was forsaken because He really did suffer the punishment that we deserved. He crushed the Serpent's head by dying the death that we deserved. The veil of the temple was torn in two when Jesus died, because His death really did take away the sin that separated us from having life with God. By suffering and dying in our place we have the forgiveness of all our sins and the promise of eternal life with God. All that Jesus willingly and freely did in love for us and for the whole world gave testimony, according to the Scriptures and the centurion who witnessed His death that, "Truly this Man was the Son of God" and the Savior of the world.

Prayer on the Bible Story

O Lord Jesus, our merciful Savior, we give thanks to You that You loved us so much that You were willing to take our sins upon Yourself and to suffer and die for us upon the cross. Help us every day to take up our cross and follow You, to confess our sins and trust in You for forgiveness, to love You with all our heart and to love others as You have loved us, for You truly are the Son of God and the Savior of the whole world, and You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



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