

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Introduction; We often wonder about past events.

- A. We wonder what they were really like.
1. We wonder what we might have done if we were there. Would we have followed the crowd or would we have been different.
 2. Would we have followed George Washington at Valley Forge and suffered the cruel winter or would we have stayed comfortable at home?
- B. It is common to think we would have done better than the crowds.
1. And we probably would have if we knew then what we know now. However we wouldn't know then how things would turn out.
 2. The Jews of Jesus' day thought they would have done better than their fathers. They boasted they would not have persecuted the prophets of old.
 3. *Matt 23:29-32 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt."*
 4. Their words condemned them. They were doing what their fathers did. They were rejecting the man sent from God, Jesus the Messiah. Their actions showed they were no different.
 5. This is important. What are we doing today? If we are not standing up for the Lord today, we would not have stood up for Him before.
- C. Today we will consider, 'What if we were there when they crucified the Lord?'
1. If we were there would we have followed the crowd or would we have stood up for Him?
 2. What we are doing today shows what we would have done then. How committed are we today to His church and His cause?

1. When they Crucified my Lord...

- A. Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion and death took only about 15 hours.
1. He was taken in the middle of the night by the Jews and appeared before Annas and Caiaphas. He was tried and condemned and beaten by them.
 2. At daybreak they took him to Pilate. Pilate sent him to Herod and Herod sent him back. He was tried and condemned and beaten by Pilate.
 3. He was crucified about 9:00 am —Mark 15:25. There was darkness over the land from noon to 3:00 pm —Mark 15:33. About 3:00 pm Jesus died —Mark 15:34-38.
- B. Lets consider some of the events during Jesus' trials and condemnation.
1. **Luke 22:39-46;** 11 of the closest people to Him on the earth did not do as He requested. They were sleeping instead of praying.
 2. Would we have stayed awake in the middle of the night when we really did not understand what was going on?
 3. **Luke 22:47-53;** Judas had been with Jesus for 3 years or so. Yet he betrayed Him with a kiss. Most of us would not have done this. Yet some folks would still sell their mother if the price was right.
 4. **22:54-62;** Peter was one of Jesus' most vocal and devoted disciples. Yet he denied Him 3 times. He has good intentions. He is looking for a chance to save Jesus. He can't do that if he stands up for Him in the courtyard. What would we have done if we were there?
 5. **22:63-65;** This is the first of several beatings. Jesus will be a bloody mess when he is finally crucified.
 6. **22:66-71;** This is just part of the trial before the Jewish religious leaders. These are the ones who teach and instruct the people in truth and righteousness. Yet they reject the one God sent them and condemn Him

- falsely.
7. This is especially a challenge for preachers and elders. We must be very careful we do not over estimate our value and wisdom and authority. We must not be jealous and self-seeking.
 8. **Luke 23:1-5**; We see that the Jewish leaders got a lot more out of what Jesus said that wasn't there. We often do this today when we oppose someone. We read evil into whatever they may say.
 9. **23:13-25**; Here the people reject Jesus. Pilate tries to by-pass the religious leaders and appeal to the people. Yet this does not work.
 10. The people listen to their leaders —Matt 27:20. The leaders say to ask for Barabbas and the people do. Do we listen to our leaders and obey them regardless of what they ask for? If so we would ask for Jesus' life.
 11. *Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."*

C. We see then the condemnation of Jesus to die on the cross.

II. When they Nailed Him to the Cross...

A. After being crucified, Jesus was taken and nailed to a cross.

1. Several times in scripture it is called a tree —Act 5:30, 10:39, 13:29 Gal 3:13, 1 Pet 2:24. Many think there were trees on Golgotha than had been stripped. The crossbar was nailed to these.
2. Always in the Gospels it is called a cross. This may signify it was all man-made. The Romans usually had an upright post in the ground. It was ready whenever they needed it. They would nail the crossbar to it.
3. Either way it was a very painful way for Jesus to die.

B. Let's consider Jesus' death on the cross.

1. **Luke 23:26**; Jesus had been beaten at least 3 times. It was common to have the condemned carry the crossbar through the streets as part of his punishment. Jesus is unable to carry His. He is too weakened.
2. This Simon many have become a Christian. Mark tells us he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. In Romans 16 Rufus is a Christian. They may be the same man.
3. *Mark 15:21 Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.*
4. *Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.*
5. **23:27-31**; Even in such pain Jesus thinks of the people and warns them. The women commonly follow the one being condemned and lamented. Probably several of Jesus' followers are with them.
6. **23:32-37**; Jesus and two others were nailed to their crossbar and hauled up on the cross and crucified. Many would hang there for days before dying. The soldiers mocked him. Would we shout encouragement? Or would we keep silent?
7. **23:38-43**; Pilate honors Jesus even as he has Him crucified. Many are like this. They respect Jesus but do not put themselves at risk by actually standing up for Him.
8. Even one of the criminals mocks Him. We are amazed at the repentance of the second thief. We are amazed that even as Jesus is dying he asked to be remembered by Him. Even while Jesus is being killed, some are converted.
9. **23:44-49**; Jesus finally dies. He gives up His Spirit when He has accomplished all the Father sent Him to do —John 19:30. We see that the centurion in charge tells his men that this was a righteous man they killed that day. He says this because of all the signs he sees. He glorifies God —another conversion?
10. All of Jesus' friends are watching from a distance. His mother, Mary, and one disciple, John, had been at the foot of the cross for a short time. Yet most stay away from fear and perhaps shame.

C. We see then Jesus' death on the cross.

III. When they Laid Him in the Tomb...

A. After dying on the cross Jesus is buried quickly.

1. The time is late and the Passover starts at sundown. Jesus can not be properly prepared.
2. Jesus will be buried in a rich man's tomb. This was prophesied. This was an enigma or paradox. A poor man who had no where to lay His head was buried in an expensive, new tomb. Many have been honored after their death.
3. *Isa 53:9 And they made His grave with the wicked; But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

B. Let's consider Jesus' burial.

1. **Luke 23:50-56;** Jesus is buried quietly. He is not buried in a public cemetery but in a fine tomb. The money Judas threw into the temple was used to buy a potter's field to bury strangers in. Jesus was probably destined for this before Joseph asked for the body.
2. The women watch all that is done. They want to show respect for Jesus by seeing that He has a proper burial. They cannot do it because of the time. However they plan to take care of Him when the Sabbath is over.
3. Joseph was secretly a follower of Jesus along with Nicodemus —John 19:38-39. They come forward after it is too late. Many are like this. When the trouble is all over they step forward. However they do not put themselves and their positions in danger. Joseph and Nicodemus were both members of the council that condemned Jesus.
4. The tomb was probably a cave hewn into the rock there near Jerusalem. It would have a channel hewn into the rock in front so a round stone could be rolled back and forth to open and close the tomb.
5. Jesus' body is laid in the tomb. His Spirit goes to Paradise and the thief will meet him there later in the day.
6. Jesus was the first of the three to die. The others had to have their legs broken. Jesus, being the Passover lamb for sin, could not have His bones broken. He was a spotless, unbroken sacrifice.
7. *John 19:31-33 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.*

C. We see then Jesus' burial in the tomb.

IV. When the Stone was Rolled Away...

A. Three days after His being laid in the tomb, Jesus is raised from the dead.

B. Let's consider Jesus' resurrection.

1. **Luke 24:1-3;** The women were worried about how they would get into the tomb. The rock was too heavy for them. Yet they go anyway and trust in God to help them.
2. *Mark 16:1-3 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"*
3. *Matt 28:1-3 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*
4. The angel came and opened rolled back the stone. He did not do so to let Jesus out. He did so to let the women and men see in. They could see that Jesus had been raised and was no longer in the tomb. The empty tomb was great proof that Jesus was the Son of God.
5. **Luke 24:4-9;** The angels tell the women to go and tell others that Jesus is raised. They go and tell the eleven and the rest what happened. Peter, John and others go and look also. They all see the empty tomb.
6. The Jewish leaders were afraid that the disciples would try to steal Jesus' body and claim He was raised from the dead. They had a guard placed before the tomb.
7. *Matt 27:62-65 On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' 64 Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."*
8. The guards were terrified by the appearance of the angel and ran away —Matt 28:4. They went back to the chief priests and told them all that happened. We are amazed at the response of the Jews.
9. *Matt 28:11-15 Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted to-*

gether, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, ¹³ saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' ¹⁴ "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." ¹⁵ So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

10. The guards put themselves in danger for running away from their duty —Act 12:19. They lie for money. They aren't the first nor the last who lied for money, even about things concerning the God of heaven and earth.
11. We are more amazed at the attitude of the priests. They knew Jesus did real miracles —John 11:45-48, 12:9-11. They hear this testimony of an angel opening the tomb and Jesus not being in the tomb. They have to know this was from God. Yet they still fight against Jehovah.
12. Many are still like this. They know the Bible is God's word and they know what they should do. Yet they still fight against truth because they want to do what they want to do.

C. We see then Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Conclusion: What would we have done 2000 years ago?

A. We would like to think we would have acted differently than Jesus disciples and others did.

1. Most of us would have done the same as they did. We would be confused and scared and run away. A few might not, but almost all of us would.
2. It is what they did after Jesus' resurrection that was important. The empty tomb convinced them He was raised and the Son of God. They now understood God's plan and lived and died for the Lord.

B. They believed and preached the Gospel.

1. Jesus told them to go and tell all men to believe, repent and be baptize to be saved. If men do this then they can be with the Lord in Paradise as the thief was.
2. We believe Jesus was God's Son who was raised from the dead. We repent of our sins and turn from them. We are buried with Christ in baptism to become a child of God. Our sins are washed away and we become Christians.
3. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
4. *Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
5. We then need to serve the Lord faithfully. We are parts of His body, the church. How faithfully we serve the Lord in His body, the church shows how we would have stood for Him in the first century.

C. If any would follow the Lord today, please let us assist you.