

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/31-2/1/2022 *Matthew Chapter 27:32-66*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

Review of last week's finishing verses:

Mat 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

Mat 27:28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Mat 27:29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Mat 27:30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

Mat 27:31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Matthew Chapter 27:32-66;

The King on a Cross – (vs. 32-44); Jesus Dies on the Cross - (vs. 45-56); Jesus Buried in Joseph’s Tomb – (vs. 57-61); Pilate Sets a Guard - (vs. 62-66).

Read these accounts also in *(Mark Chapter 15:21-47); (Luke Chapter 23:26-56); (John 19:17-42)*

The Crucifixion

Mat 27:32 Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

- **Jesus was subjected to total humiliation and untold suffering.** We are told in *(Joh 19:17) And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.* The impression seems that He became too weak to carry His cross because of the scourging and the ordeal to which the soldiers had subjected Him.
- **They found Simon and compelled (forced) him to bear His cross.** Under their law, a Roman soldier could compel anyone to carry a load for up to a mile, by simply laying his sword or spear on a person’s and so ordering him.
- **There is reason to believe that Simon came to know what taking up your cross** and following Jesus, really meant! There is evidence to suggest that his sons became leaders among the early Christians. *(Mar 15:21a) Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus.* Further, Paul says in *(Rom 16:13) Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.*

Mat 27:33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, (Heb 13:12-13) Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. [13] Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach

Mat 27:34 they gave Him sour wine (vinegar) mingled with gall (myrrh, bitter -Ruth, call me Mara?) to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.

- **This was an anesthesia. Its purpose was to numb the prisoner** so that he would not feel so keenly the pain of crucifixion. They offered it to Jesus, but He did not take it, likely desiring to not have the extreme pain dimmed, but taking the complete brunt of all the suffering that man could dish out, having a clear mind through His suffering. Again in *(Psa 69:21) They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. But He would not drink!* How interesting! Our perfect High Priest, suffering all things on our behalf!

Mat 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."

- **Then they crucified Him.** Crucifixion began in Persia, around the sixth century, B.C. The earth was considered sacred to their god, Ormuzd. Criminals were not to defile the earth by touching it, as they were being put to death. They were lifted up so as to not defile the earth. This practice of crucifixion moved to Carthage in North Africa and eventually was adopted by the Roman Empire.
- **In the gospels, the Bible spares us the gory descriptions of Jesus’ physical agony, horror and brutality,** simply stating “*then they crucified Him.*” Pretty much everyone in Matthew’s day was well acquainted with the terror of crucifixion. We may somewhat understand the physical horror to being put to death this way.
- **We read in, (Psa 22:14-17) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. [15] My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. [16] For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; [17] I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.**
- **Psalm twenty-two is a remarkable passage of scripture because in it is a very vivid** and accurate description of death by crucifixion, written at a period of man’s history when crucifixion was really unknown as a means of putting a person to death. Yet, the things that happened when a person is crucified are described, such as the body going out of joint. As the muscles give way and the body begins to go out of joint, the pull of the gravity and the excruciating pain that comes as your body begins to slip its joints. The tremendous thirst that takes place as the body is dehydrating, as it hangs there on the cross.
- **Jesus’ suffering spiritually! We need to be reminded of the greater aspect of Jesus’ spiritual suffering, which was much greater than the physical!** Being separated from the Father, taking all my sin

and all of everyone's sin in the world, past, present and future is more that we can possible process and comprehend!

- **Looking medically at death by crucifixion in great detail**, Dr. William Edwards, in 1986, wrote a remarkable article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* titled "On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ." For anyone interested in looking into this hideous death from a medical standpoint of what the body would go through, it can be seen at: <https://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/deathjesus.pdf>
- **THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."** (*Psalm 22:18*) *They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.* Thus, that prophecy was fulfilled.

Mat 27:36 *Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.*

- **The chief priests were careful, in setting this guard to watch over Him**, so that none of the people, standing in awe, should rise, and rescue Him. God may have detained those who were appointed to watch Him, thereby being witnesses for Him, having the opportunity to see and hear that noble confession. (*Mat 27:54*) *So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

Mat 27:37 *And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*

(*Joh 19:19-22*) *Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. [21] Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews." [22] Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."*

- **In compiling the gospel accounts, the complete form may have been**, "This is Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews!" In the Hebrew language, one can see YAHWEH in the sign!
- **This they designed for His reproach, but God so overruled it**, that even His accusation contributed greatly to His honor. So, Pilate, instead of accusing Christ as a Criminal, proclaimed Him a King, and that three times, in three different language inscriptions. We see God making men to serve His purposes, quite beyond their own!

Mat 27:38 *Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.*

(*Mar 15:28*) *So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS."*

- **One on the right, the other on the left.** Again, the prophecy fulfilled in the fact that there were two thieves, (*Isa 53:12*) *Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

Mat 27:39 *And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads*

- **There were those that were passing by**, just yelling at Him, cursing at Him, shaking their heads. Again in (*Psa 22:7*) *All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head.* Here they are, fulfilling this verse as they wag their heads as they yelled the taunts at Him as He is hanging there on the cross.

Mat 27:40 *and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself. If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross."*

- **Here they are, mocking Him about His teaching.** (*Joh 2:19-21*) *Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." [20] Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" [21] But He was speaking of the temple of His body.*
- **Here, they mock His claim to be the Son of God!** Prove your deity now, by coming down from the cross!

Mat 27:41 *Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said,*

Mat 27:42 *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.*

- **He saved others; Himself He cannot save.** They uttered truth from one end of that statement to the other! There is no acknowledgement in the entire course of Jesus' public ministry of the greatness, the supernaturalness of His ministry. The Jewish religious leaders would not give Him any credit at all. Yet here, while He is on the cross with no hope for Him to survive this crucifixion, now they let eek out of their hearts what they knew to be true about Him. **He saved others!** Throughout Israel there was one great testimony of the power of Jesus to save people and to change their lives!
- **They went on to say another untruth**, saying that **He saved others He cannot save Himself!** It was true of Jesus, but never in a way they intended to be! The real truth of that, they missed! **But it was the very truth of**

our salvation! If He would have come down from that cross, and He could have, we would not have had the sacrifice that was required for the forgiveness of sins, in order for us to be saved! It was only because He did not save Himself, that He could save others!

- **If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down.** Here, they are mocking His claim to be the King of the Jews!
- **How did this mocking and taunting effect our Lord, while on the cross?** Listen to what the Holy Spirit said in wanting us to have a glimpse of what Jesus was experiencing, the impact of the scolding and the *mocking* it has upon Him. *(Psa 69:20) Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none!*

Mat 27:43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "

- **In Psalm 22 it prophesies about the taunts** from the crowd, *(Psa 22:8) "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"* All of these events, even the words that were spoken, were all prophesied 500, 600, 700, a 1,000 years before the event took place. But it all proves what Peter declared, that this was happening as the result of the "*determined purpose and foreknowledge of God!*" **God was seeking to prove His love for you in redeeming man from their sin at such an awful cost!** The reproach, the shame that His Son endured in order to deliver us from our sins, in order to prove to you God's wonderful love!

Mat 27:44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.

- **One on the right, the other on the left,** *(Isa 53:12) Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.* Again, the prophecy fulfilled in the fact that there were two thieves.

The Death of Jesus

Mat 27:45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. *(Luk 23:44) Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth (world) until the ninth hour.*

- **From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, or twelve noon to three o'clock in the afternoon.** An unexplainable supernatural darkness except, that we read in *(Amo 8:9-10) "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight; [10] I will turn your feasts into mourning (It was the Feast of Passover), And all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, And baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son (Yes, it was the only begotten Son of God!) And its end like a bitter day.* So, the darkness over the land at noon prophesied by Amos.
- **Darkness communicates a lot of things related to the scene of Jesus' death on the cross! One thing, it reveals the presence of the Father.** God the Father may be the most overlooked figure in the scene of Jesus' death upon the cross. We think almost of Jesus supremely. We know that the Holy Spirit was active. But the Father was there as well. The Father was present, watching the death of His Son in this way, in order to provide us with a forgiveness of sin. He shrouds it in darkness. Darkness is a sign of mourning. Mourning the death of someone else. He takes and He shrouds the entire thing in darkness as He mourns the sacrifice of the death of His only Begotten Son, in order for us to be saved. It was the Father's Son, who died on Calvary. **And the Father made His presence known.**
- **Consider the Father's love for us as He allowed His Son to be the perfect Passover Lamb for us!** When we, as fathers, hear a desperate cry from our son, we usually do not have the ability or capability to really do anything to help him in his desperation. Just think of the Father's love for us as He restrained Himself, having the total ability to stop the whole situation of the cross! What love, what amazing love! *(Isa 53:10) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.*
- **The darkness shrouding Jesus and protecting Him from the shame** of the scene. When one goes into a hospital where somebody is really struggling with a physical condition and so forth, in a place not to be seen by anyone else than a medical professional, then the professionals will draw a shade around the patient, in order to give them privacy in the midst of whatever they are dealing with. God the Father does the same thing here in order to give Jesus semblance of protection in the midst of the shame.
- **It also communicates the darkness of the human heart.** The single greatest sin, the single worst act in human history, which has ever been committed by mankind. It was when mankind crucified His Creator upon the cross. It represents the darkness of the human heart!

- **It also represents the greatness of the spiritual warfare that Jesus went through** upon that cross. As Paul wrote, *(Col 2:15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (Heb 2:14-15) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.* There was something going on in the spiritual realm. We already know that Satan was involved in Judas Iscariot. He was involved in the use of the Jewish religious leaders and Pilate. The whole thing is just an awful spiritual darkness, which is going on. Yet, Jesus was in all of this, disarming powers and principalities. The disarming would be made manifest, ultimately, in His crucifixion. But there was a great, great spiritual warfare, an onslaught, spiritually speaking, against Jesus upon the cross.
- **It is believed that during those three hours, Jesus bore the sins of the whole world!** As Paul wrote in *(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* When we became Christians, we could not even carry our own sin. Imagine, being perfection on that cross, carrying the sin of billions and billions of people through thousands of years! There as He hangs upon the cross carrying our sins upon that cross, bearing it, it spoke of the darkness, the great darkness of our sin! As He is in that particular condition, in that darkness, about the ninth hours, three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"
- **Here is one of the most amazing scenes in human history!** Something happened within the godhead, **which had never happened before and would never again happen! Where some forsaking takes place on the part of the Father towards the Son, while He bears our sin.** Something, called forsaking, has happened within the Godhead as He bore my sins upon the cross, that required a forsaking of the Father. There was something unprecedented with the Godhead for me to be forgiven and saved. For mankind to be forgiven and saved! Jesus experiences a loneliness, not just related to man, but related to the Godhead, that He would never know before and could never be put into words. He had to be forsaken in order to bear our sin!

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

- **This plaintiff cry from the cross.** Just about the time that He expired. These last sayings of Jesus came one after another, as God is now laying on Him our sins.

Seven Sayings of Jesus on the Cross:

(1) – *(Luk 23:34) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

(2) – *(Luk 23:43) And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

(3) – *(Joh 19:26-27) When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" [27] Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. It is incredible to think of the terrible agony that Jesus had been suffering for hours. Yet, despite His own pain and anguish He had regard for His mother!*

(4) – *(Mat 27:46) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"*

The Death of Jesus

(5) – *(Joh 19:28) After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Scientists tell us that thirst is the most agonizing of all pain. Every cell in the body cries out for relief, and the pain gets worse and worse as time goes by.*

(6) – *(Joh 19:30) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. This is the great victory cry of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He had finished the work He had come to do! Long ago, He had finished the work of creation. Now He had/has finished the work of salvation!*

(7) – *(Luk 23:46) And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." " Having said this, He breathed His last.*

- **The psalmist went on to say, (Psa 22:2-3) O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season (as it became dark) and am not silent.** (But then, the answer to the question), *Why have You forsaken Me?) [3] But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. Because of the holiness of God, when God laid upon His Son the iniquities of us all, His Son was forsaken by the Father.*
- **Turning to, (Isa 53:6, 8) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.** He took your sin, He took all of your sin, all of your iniquity. He bore the punishment for your sins. He accepted the responsibility for your sins. [8] *He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. For your transgressions, He died.*

God laid on Him, "God made Him," the scripture said, (2Co 5:21a) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.*

- **Now we know that the effect of sin and the horrible effect of sin is that of separation** from God. That is the result of sin. (Eze 18:4) *"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.* We shall spiritually die. It is a separation from God. When Adam sinned, he died spiritually. He was separated from God. God said, Adam, where are you? The sin caused the breach, the separation. The prophet Isaiah said, (Isa 59:1-2) *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. [2] But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.*
- **When God laid on Him, your sins, my sins, the sins of the world**, the Father turned His back upon the Son and thus, the cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" In that cry, we understand a little better the prayer in the garden the night before, when He was in great agony and as it was, sweating great drops of blood falling to the ground as He prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me." This cup of bitterness that He was to drink as He took all of the horrible sins of mankind upon Himself.
- **He alone, bore the reproach, the shame and bore our sins.** He might be able to grant His forgiveness of sins, (Isa 59:1-2) *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. [2] But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. (Hebrews 12:2) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- **For the joy of being able to say to that thief, (Luk 23:42-43)** *Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." [43] And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*
- **The joy of being able to say to you, You are forgiven.** I take the responsibility of your guilt! You are forgiven! You are clean! There is nothing against you! The joy of being able to grant the forgiveness of our sins. "He endured the cross though He despised the shame."

Mat 27:47 *Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"*

Mat 27:48 *Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.*

- (Psa 69:21) *They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

Mat 27:49 *The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."*

Mat 27:50 *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. (Joh 10:18) No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

- **Now this is a way of describing physical death** in the Bible. He yielded up His spirit. That is the separation of a man's spirit from his body. The Bible teaches the real you is the spirit. The body is not the real you! The body is just a tent in which you live. One day, you are going to move out of the tent. Your spirit is going to be separated from your body. They will say, Well he is dead, there is no more brain activity, no more brain waves. His EEG is flat, which is separation of a man's consciousness or spirit from his body, a definition for death. So, it was with Jesus. He gave up the spirit. That, there was a separation of the spirit from the body. Now, only the body is hanging there limp on the cross. The spirit has departed.

Mat 27:51 *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

- **The significance of the veil being torn is that through Jesus Christ, we have access to God.** Amazingly, He made access unto God. (Heb 10:19-22) *Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, [21] and having a High Priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience. God is demonstrating the door is now open! The way has been made for you and for me. Sinful man, being able to come into the presence of God through Jesus Christ and the blood of the covenant by which He gave Himself for our sins. In Christ, now we have access unto the Father! Oh, that glorious, blessed privilege that is ours made possible through Jesus Christ! Oh, how glorious! This verse is saying that "God took the mercy seat that was hidden and made it public, made available, made it approachable by "Setting Forth" His Son Jesus Christ as the offering for our sins.*
- **The veil was torn in two from top to bottom!** The veil in the temple was quite thick. To tear something

like that would be a physical impossibility for man. **Note that it was ripped from the top, sixty feet to the bottom, as though God was ripping the veil of the temple, signifying that man, has no way of gaining access to God, but only through what Jesus accomplished on the cross.** Now the purpose for the veil in the temple was to keep man from coming to God. Only the high priest was allowed to go beyond the veil. No one else was allowed into this holy of holies, the place of God's presence, the place of the Shekinah of God, the presence of God.

- **It was forbidden by man to go in. So, the tearing of that veil was not just a supernatural rending only,** but it was communicating that at the moment God's Son, die upon the cross at Calvary, that His Son had provided something, unparalleled in history. That an access to God and a relationship with God, that man had never known before. **As that Holy of Holies shown wide open to anyone and everyone that was in the realm of temple, it was communicating now, that relationship and access to God is available to everyone who puts their faith in Christ!** Now God opens the Holy of Holies up to you and me on the basis of faith in Jesus.
- **This is brought out for us, that how by the blood of Jesus,** the throne of God has become as throne of grace! (*Heb 4:16*) *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* You or I are able to approach, anytime, day or night, with any need that we have! This was mind-blowing for the Jews to have kind of access and intimacy of relationship with God! That is what Jesus has provided for! We can access that throne, as often as we want, no matter who we are! No matter where we are in the world. **Then, marvel of marvels, that when we approach that throne of grace, on the basis of Jesus' sacrifice, it is always to receive the grace and mercy of which we have need!**
- **Only the high priest could go in and that only one day in the year, the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.** And that only after many sacrifices and even then, when he went in, he had a rope tied around his ankle. There were bells on the bottom of his robe. As he went in to stand before God for the sins of the people and the nation for the year, they would listen to the bells on his robe as he was there ministering. If the bells went silent, they knew that he was smitten dead in the presence of God and they would take him, pull him out by the rope. They would not go in to get him because the veil signify there is a separation between God and man. There is no possibility for man to reach God. Because of man's sinfulness, he cannot approach the holy God. But God can reach man, through what His Son, Jesus Christ had done. God can and does reach down, as the veil was torn from top to bottom, to man!

Mat 27:52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

Mat 27:53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

- **Here in verses fifty-two and fifty-three, we have an interesting statement that is really out of place** because this happened after His resurrection, but Matthew threw it in here. This event took place not at the crucifixion but after the resurrection.
- **We do not know why this matter is being given to us.** Possibly, it is, both to Christ's honor and theirs, to suppose, though we cannot prove, that they arose as Christ did, to die no more, and therefore ascended with Him to glory. Surely on them who did partake of His first resurrection, a second death had no power. How they appeared or disappeared are secret things which belong not to us. We need not speculate what is beyond what is written.
- ***They went into the holy city and appeared unto many.*** The graves were opened. Now Paul tells us (*Eph 4:8-9*) *Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." [9] (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?* The Bible teaches that before the death and resurrection of Jesus, all men who died went into Sheol, the grave, the place of incarceration for disembodied spirits.
- **For in, (*Gal 3:6*) just as Abraham "BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS ACCOUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."** He was assuring them of God's promises that would be kept. When Jesus came, He preached to those souls that were in prison. When He rose from the dead, He led the captives from their captivity. Thus, the graves of many were open and the saints were seen, some of them even walking in the streets of Jerusalem, after His resurrection from the dead.

Mat 27:54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Mat 27:55 And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,

When Jesus traveled, there was a company of perhaps fifty to a hundred people that traveled with Him. His disciples that He had called to be apostles, other disciples and many others. There were many women who had come from Galilee that traveled with the company. They prepared the food, travelling along with them, ministering unto the needs.

Mat 27:56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother (Salome) **of Zebedee's sons.**

- **This Mary, the mother of James and Joses who were the sons of Alphaeus.** These are not James and John, the sons of Zebedee. This Mary is said to be the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus. This James is often referred to as James the less because he was shorter than James, the brother of John.

Jesus Is Buried

Mat 27:57 Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.

Mat 27:58 This man went to Pilate and asked (begged) **for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given** (gifted) **to him.**

(Mar 15:43) Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

(Luk 23:50b-52) Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. [51] He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting (continually) for the kingdom of God. [52] This man went to Pilate and asked (begged) for the body of Jesus.

(Joh 19:38-41) After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. [39] And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds (burial, fit for a king!) [40] Then they took the body of Jesus and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. [41] Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

Mat 27:59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

Mat 27:60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

- **But in this entombment by Joseph of Arimathea, who was a rich man,** we have another fulfillment of prophecy. In (Isa 53:9) *And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death!*

Mat 27:61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

- **They followed the procession.** They watched as Jesus was bound in the linen. They saw Him as He was laid in the tomb. They were there in the shadows, watching the events as the stone was rolled over the door of the tomb. It is interesting that as Jesus dismissed His spirit, going back just a bit, in John He said, “(Joh 10:14,15) *I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. [15] As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.* He yielded up His spirit. (Joh 10:17-18) *Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. [18] No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”* So, we find Him laying down His life. In a few days we find Him taking it up again!

The Guard at the Tomb

Mat 27:62 On the next day (the day after the crucifixion), **which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,**

Mat 27:63 saying, "Sir, we remember, while He (they can't say His name, but we will, His name was and is Jesus!) **was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'**

- **The chief priests and Pharisees remembered that, but the disciples did not!** Isn't that interesting? They remembered that but the disciples had forgotten it. After He rose then they remembered it says that He said, After three days I will rise. But the disciples had forgotten, but they remembered and said to Pilate to command to make the tomb secure! Somehow, that must have felt that even though Jesus had been crucified, dead and buried, they still had not got rid of the problem! They were afraid!

Mat 27:64 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."

- **So the last deception will be worse than the first.** Interesting they admit that it was an error. The first

error would be their putting Him to death.

Mat 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard (take as many as you want); go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

- **Pilate said unto them, You have a guard: make it as sure as you can.** Pilate is tired and sick of these guys. **I love that. But no matter how many guards they put there**, they cannot keep Jesus in the grave. Make it as sure as you can. It is interesting in placing that guard, the enemies of Christ produced the evidence for the fact that the only thing that could explain that empty tomb was Jesus' resurrection! They guarded against any explanation of His body being stolen. Essentially, they set things in motion here, that if that tomb did end up empty three days later, it was not because that body had been stolen away, but because there had been an actual resurrection!

Mat 27:66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

- **Setting the guard - koustodia** – Roman sentry; to watch over, to care for -usually, sixteen soldiers. They were highly skilled with the sling shot, the sword and the javelin. They were under such required discipline, the highest requirement in all of Rome. If one guard was found asleep when they were on duty, all sixteen of the guard were killed! All the authority of Rome was behind this security of the tomb!
- **Sealing the stone. The penalty for breaking the Roman seal was to be immediately crucified upside down.**
- **They did their best, but it was not good enough** as we will find out in the next chapter, as we go on into chapter twenty-eight.
- **May we sit quietly for a few moments and just absorb, at some level, the incredible** majesty and beauty and reality of what it is that we have studied concerning our Savior tonight!
- **What beauty what power. Soon we are going to be able to look into Your face.** Soon, we are going to be gathered to You! Help us not to be secret disciples. What an incredible future You have set for us!
- **Let Your word speak to us in the day that we live in, LORD!** Do it in the power of Your Spirit! Renew us! Strengthen us! LORD! Fill us, afresh!

CLOSING SONG:

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS – George Bennard – Maranatha Singers (5:39)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain: -

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it someday for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary. (*Refrain*)

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me. (*Refrain*)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share. (*Refrain – 2X*)

CLOSING PRAYER:

Assignment for next week: **Read Matthew Chapter 28, as we finish the Book!** His resurrection; the women worshipping the risen Lord; the soldiers are bribed; The Great Commission!

Attachment: Dr. William Edwards, On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ.



On the Physical
Death of Jesus Christ.