



Jesus, Our Spotless Passover Lamb Is Condemned And Judas, Full Of Remorse, Hangs Himself

"When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor." - Matthew 27:1-2

The chief priests and elders took Jesus by night and held council against Him, mocked Him and beat Him. All this was against Jewish law. Then to cover their tracks, they made an appearance in the light of day and led Him away. *"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."* - John 3:20-21

Judas, Never Expecting Jesus To Be Found Guilty, Hangs Himself

"Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He (Jesus) had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.' And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him Who was priced, Whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'" - Matthew 27:3-10

In typical "religious" Pharisee fashion, the chief priests and elders were concerned about using Judas' "blood money" in the temple, but they didn't seem to mind the fact that they were falsely accusing, beating and then murdering an innocent Man—even God Himself!

Jesus, Our Spotless Passover Lamb is Condemned And Judas, Full of Remorse, Hangs Himself

Matthew 27:1-10

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. repent- more than to just feel sorry for your sin; to turn your back on sin and to turn to God
2. remorseful- a selfish regret of something because of its possible consequences

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 27:1-10. What did the leaders of the Jewish people do in the morning? (vs. 1-2a)
2. Who did the leaders deliver Jesus to? (vs. 2)
3. How did Judas feel and what did he do? (vs. 3-5)

Note: Matthew 27:5 tells us that Judas hanged himself because of the guilt and remorse he had after betraying Jesus. In Acts 1:18, Luke tells us that Judas fell, tumbled and his abdomen burst open. With these two seemingly different accounts, the question is raised, "How did Judas die?" Both accounts are true. Although there are minor variations, most scholars agree that Judas, full of guilt and remorse, went to the potter's field and hanged himself. When a person is hung, the body becomes bloated with fluid. After he had hung himself, either the rope or the branch broke, which caused Judas to fall, tumble and burst open.

4. Judas felt remorseful, but do you think that he "repented" from his sins? (II Cor. 7:10)
5. What is the difference between feeling remorseful and repenting? (See vocabulary.)
6. What did the Jewish leaders do with the thirty pieces of silver? Why? (vs. 6-7)
7. Discuss the prophecies that were fulfilled in today's lesson. (vs. 8-10; Jer. 32:6-9; Zech. 11:12-13)

Note: In New Testament times, the Old Testament was written in scrolls. Several books would be on one scroll. It was common and acceptable in those days to read and be familiar with what was on the scrolls. They would quote truths from them, even combining more than one author's writings and only citing one author, just as it was done here.

Memory Verse

"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." II Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV)

Jesus Appears Before Pontius Pilate, The Roman Governor

"Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.' And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, 'Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?' But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they

had gathered together, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus Who is called Christ?' For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, 'Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.' But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' They said, 'Barabbas!' Pilate said to them, 'What then shall I do with Jesus Who is called Christ?' They all said to him, 'Let Him be crucified!' Then the governor said, 'Why, what evil has He done?' But they cried out all the more, saying, 'Let Him be crucified!'" -Matthew 27:11-23



"Barabbas" means "son of the father." There were two "sons of the father," but only one was the Son of the Father. Just like now, there are many who are false Jesus' and false Christs. Which one have you chosen? Be sure you are born again and you know the Jesus of the Bible. Barabbas' first name was 'Jesus,' a fairly common name. He was a hardened criminal but the people chose him instead of the Lord Jesus Christ, the real Son of the Father. How can you tell the real Jesus from the false Jesus? Be a fruit inspector! (See Matthew 7:15-20.) What did Barabbas' fruit look like? He was a notorious prisoner who was guilty of serious crimes. What was Jesus Christ's fruit? Love.

Matthew

Chapter 27:11-23

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 27:11. When asked by the governor (Pilate), did Jesus deny that he was King of the Jews?
2. Read Matt. 27:12. What did Jesus say when being accused by the chief priest and elders?
3. Read Matt. 27:13-14. When accused unjustly, Jesus did not defend Himself. How do we apply this example in our own lives? (See Deut. 32:35 and Heb. 7:25.)
4. Read Matt. 27:15-17. What custom did the Roman governor follow at the Jewish Passover feast?
5. Read Matt. 27:17-18. What choice of prisoners did Pilate offer the Jews?
6. Read Matt. 27:18-19. Do you think Pilate believed in Jesus' innocence? How did Pilate's wife affirm these thoughts?
7. Read Matt. 27:20. How was Pilate overruled?
8. Read Matt. 27:21-22. Who did the mob want to set free? What fate did the mob demand for Jesus?
9. Read Matt. 27:23. What was Pilate's reaction to the mob's cry for Jesus' crucifixion?
10. Read Matt. 27:24. What did Pilate do to express his disagreement with the demands of the mob?

Memory Verse

"But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My strength, hasten to help Me!"

Psalm 22:19 (NKJV)



Jesus Our Lord, Beaten & Mocked

"When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children.' Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 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!' Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 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. Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross." - Matthew 27:24-32

"I gave My back to those who struck Me, and my cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."
- Isaiah 50:6

Pontius Pilate was a Roman governor who reigned under Caesar. There had been several Jewish uprisings while he was in power and he feared that he might lose his job and his head! Though Pilate knew that Jesus was an innocent Man, he "washed his hands of it." He feared a Jewish uprising and the anger of Caesar more than he cared about justice and the anger of God. "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." - Proverbs 29:25

Psalm 22:16-18, says,

"For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

WHY DID JESUS LET HIMSELF BE CRUCIFIED?

Hebrews 12:2, says, "...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." Jesus saw you and me! It was love that caused Him to lay His life down for the sheep!



"So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the Lord."
- Deuteronomy 21:9

Jesus Our Lord, Beaten & Mocked

Matthew 27:24-32

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. could not prevail- would do no good
2. garrison- cohort; band of soldiers
3. Praetorium- the governor's headquarters
4. scourge- a whip made of long leather strips with sharp pieces of bone or lead attached to the end that were meant to tear the flesh while being whipped
5. scourged- flogged or whipped with a Roman scourge
6. tumult- an uproar

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 27:24-26. Who did not want the responsibility of Jesus' death? (vs. 24)

b. What kind of person did he think Jesus was? (vs. 24)
2. a. Who wanted the responsibility of Jesus' blood? (vs. 25)

b. Do you think that they really knew what they were asking for?

Note: Because of their rejection of Jesus, Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-24:2), the beloved city of the Jews and the home of their sacred temple. This actually took place by the Roman army under Titus in AD 70.

- c. This week the crowd insists upon Jesus' crucifixion. What were they saying just a week before this? (Matt. 21:9)
3. Read Matthew 27:27-31. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?

Memory Verse

"But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!"
Psalm 22:19 (NKJV)

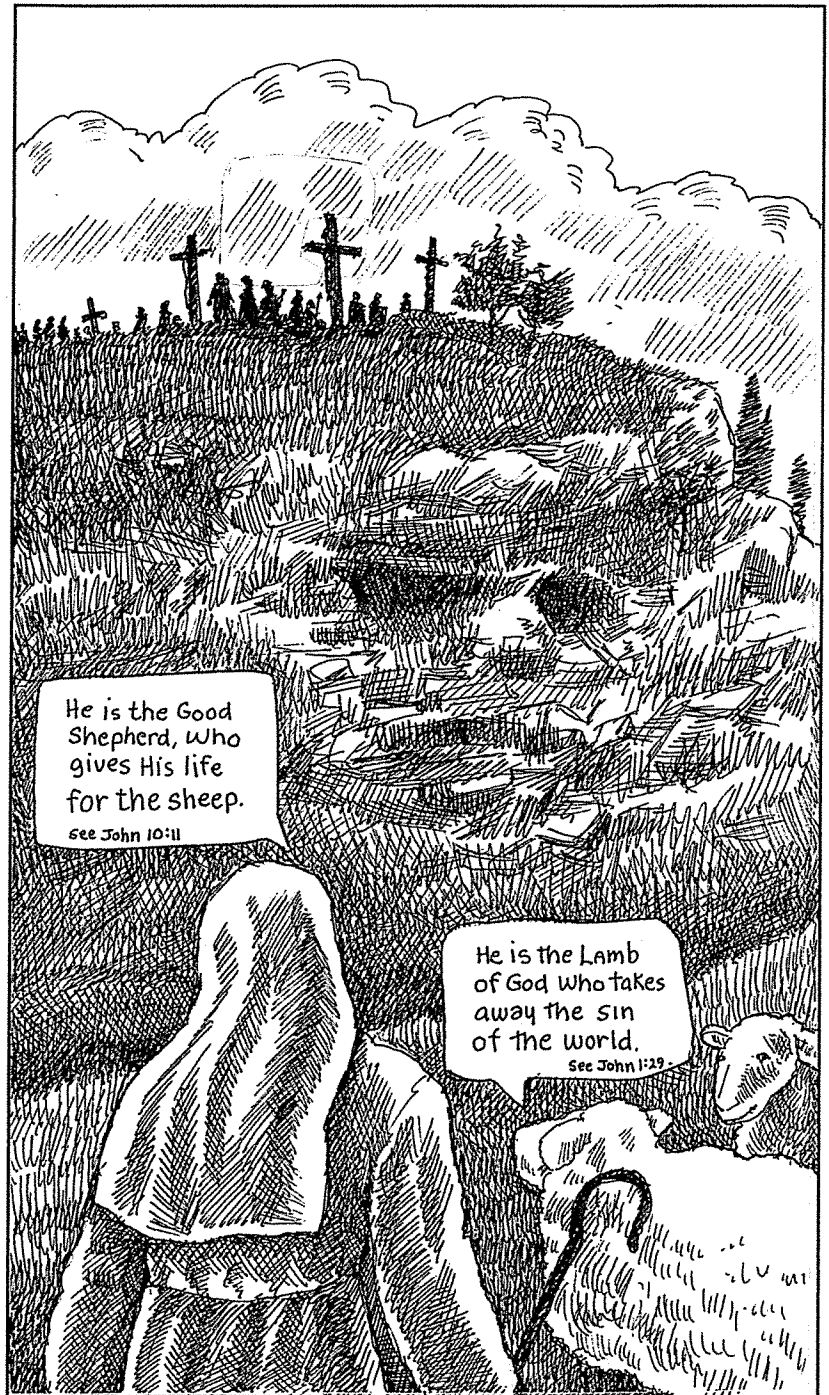
Jesus Is Crucified

"And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. 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.'* Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 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.'* Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, *'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 trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, "I am the Son of God."* Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing." - Matthew 27:33-44



The Jewish religious leaders wanted Jesus to hurry up and die so they could go home and be a partaker in the Feast of Passover and keep themselves from breaking the Law! Jesus was their Messiah, and their Passover Lamb! They were so 'religious' that they missed their Messiah when He came to them! Notice that Jesus' enemies said, *"He saved others; Himself He cannot save."* Jesus did and does still save others from their sins. He could have saved Himself, but He willingly laid down His life for us! He could have prayed to His Father and more than twelve legions of angels could have rescued Him. (See Matthew 26:53.) It was love that caused Him to willingly suffer and die for us.



WHICH SINNER ARE YOU?

"Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, *'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.'* But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, *'Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.'* Then he said to Jesus, *'Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.'* And Jesus said to him, *'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'*" - Luke 23:39-43

Jesus is Crucified

Matthew 27:33-44

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. gall- a bitter herb, could have been used as a poison to hasten Jesus' death or as a mild pain killer
2. Golgotha- skull; the place where Jesus was crucified; means the same thing as Calvary, a place in Jerusalem where it was common to execute criminals
3. reviled- defamed; assaulted with abusive words

Discussion Questions

1. Compare Matthew 27: 24-44 with Psalm 22:1-19.

Note: In Matthew 27:34, some say the sour wine and gall could have been offered to poison Him to shorten His suffering. Some say the sour wine and gall were to ease His pain and suffering. Either way, Jesus was suffering for the sins of the world. He refused the sour wine and gall and did not alter His purpose on the cross.

2. While the Jewish leaders were mocking Jesus, what did they admit that Jesus had done for others? (vs. 41-42)
3. As the Jewish leaders were mocking Jesus, what were they encouraging Jesus to do that He really could have done if He wanted to? (vs. 41-42; Matt. 26:52-53)
4. In vs. 44, the robbers were also mocking Jesus, but what happened a little bit later to one of the robbers? (Luke 23:39-43)

Memory Verse

"But _____, O _____, do not be _____ from _____; O My _____, hasten to
_____ Me!" _____ 22:_____ (NKJV)

Jesus Dies

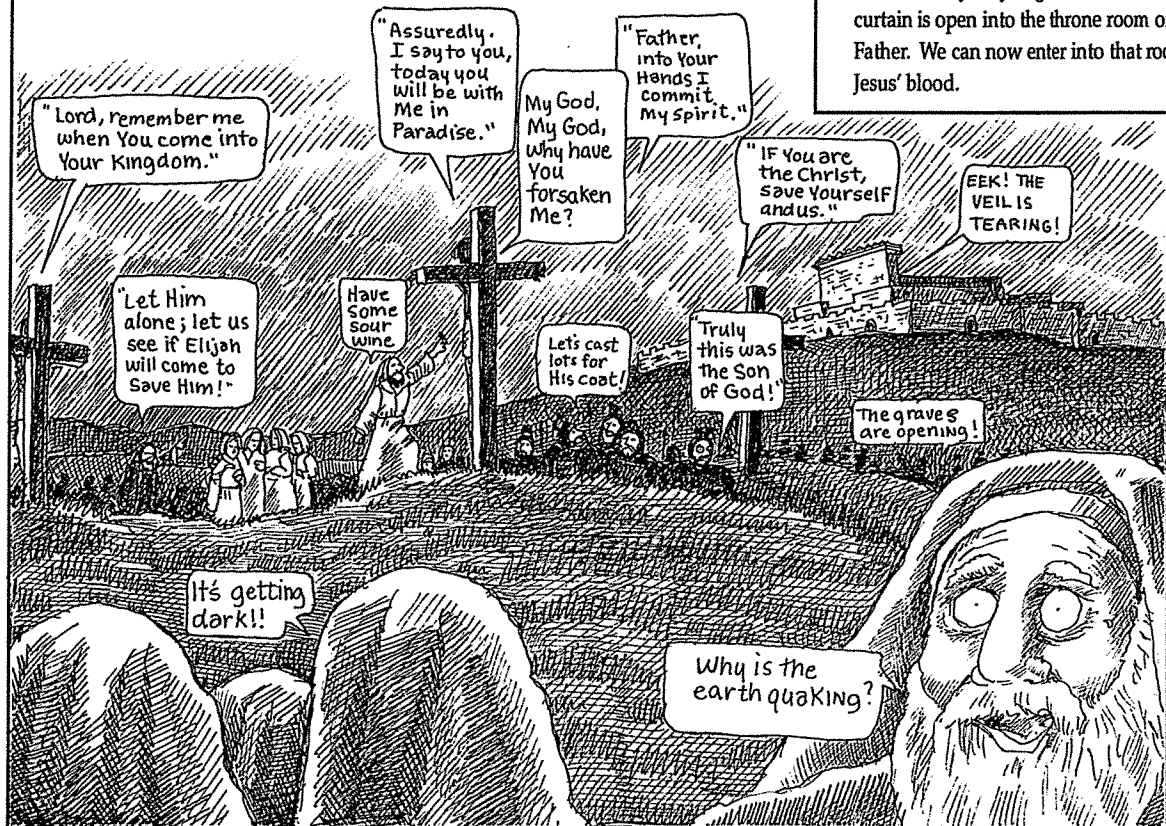
"Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, 'This Man is calling for Elijah!' 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. The rest said, 'Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.' And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 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!' And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons."

-Matthew 27:45-56

If the religious leaders had known the scriptures, they would have recognized Jesus' words from Psalm 22. Jesus gave them another opportunity to recognize Him as their Messiah, but they had already rejected Him. Their hearts, eyes, ears, and minds were closed toward true spiritual matters.

Jesus was separated from His Father when He took our sins upon Himself. Instead of crying, "My Father, My Father," He cried, "My God, My God." God is Holy and He cannot look upon wickedness (see Habakkuk 1:13). Jesus became sin for us and He was separated from His Father.

When Jesus cried out the second time, He said, "It is finished!" It means, "paid in full." He willingly gave up His spirit. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. Now there is no veil into the Holy of Holies. Jesus, our veil, was torn apart and He is the only way to get to the Father. The curtain is open into the throne room of our Father. We can now enter into that room by Jesus' blood.



Matthew
Chapter 27:45-56

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 27:45. How long was the darkness over all the earth?

2. Read Matt. 27:46. What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour? What did Jesus mean when He said that God had forsaken Him? (See Ps. 22:14 and 2 Cor. 5:21.)

3. Read Matt. 27:47. What did the onlookers mistakenly think?

4. Read Matt. 27:48-49. Why was Jesus offered sour wine? (See John 19:28-29.)

5. Read Matt. 27:50 and John 19:30. What were Jesus' last words on the cross?
Did He willingly give up His life?

6. Read Matt. 27:51-53. What four events happened immediately following Jesus' death?
1 -
2 -
3 -
4 -
What is the significance of the torn veil?

7. Read Matt. 27:54. How did the events described in vs. 51-53 affect the centurions guarding Jesus' Tomb?

8. Read Matt. 27:55-56. Name some of the followers who witnessed the crucifixion.

Memory Verse

"But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My strength, hasten to help Me!"

Psalm 22:19 (NKJV)

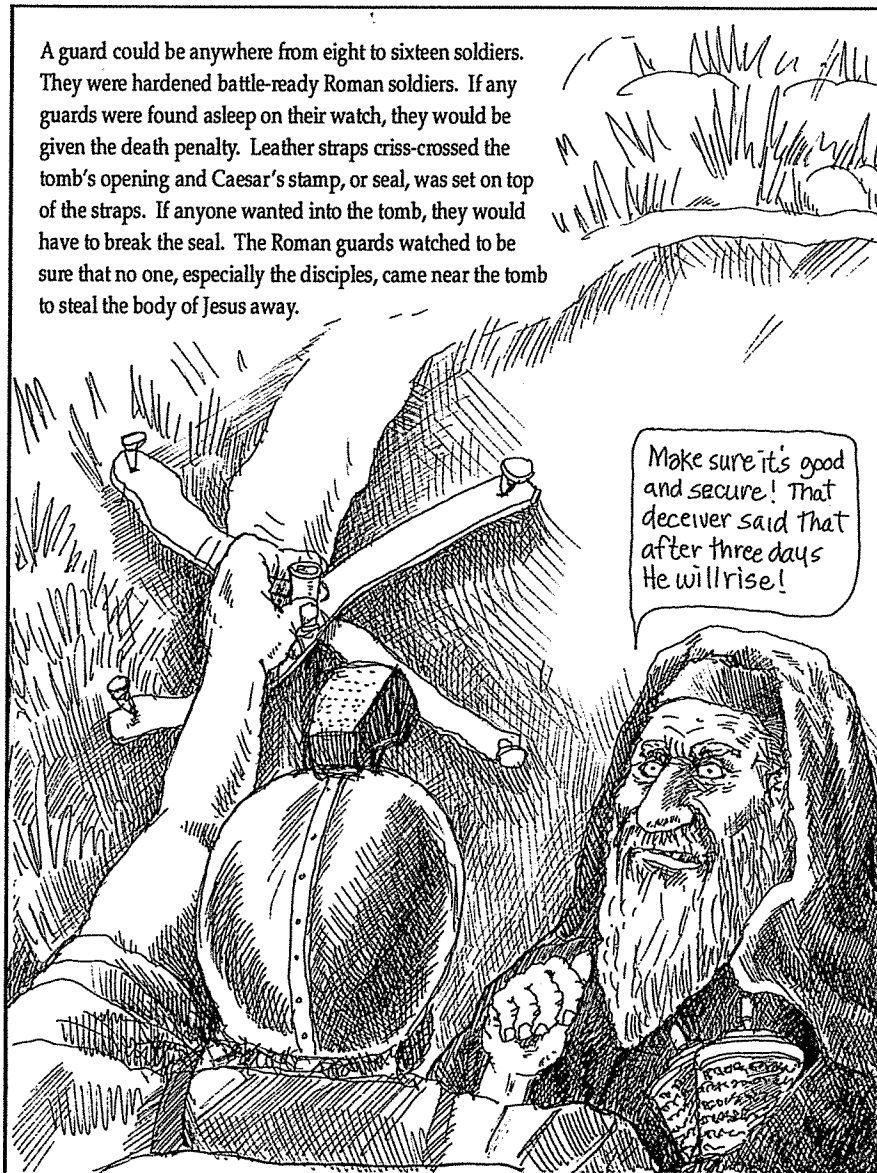
Jesus Is Buried And Pilate, The Governor, Sets A Guard On Jesus' Tomb

"Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 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. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, 'Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, "After three days I will rise." 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.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.' So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." -Matthew 27:57-66

A guard could be anywhere from eight to sixteen soldiers. They were hardened battle-ready Roman soldiers. If any guards were found asleep on their watch, they would be given the death penalty. Leather straps criss-crossed the tomb's opening and Caesar's stamp, or seal, was set on top of the straps. If anyone wanted into the tomb, they would have to break the seal. The Roman guards watched to be sure that no one, especially the disciples, came near the tomb to steal the body of Jesus away.



Isaiah 53:9-12, says, "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. 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. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many. For He shall bear their iniquities. 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."

Matthew

Chapter 27:57-66

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 27:57-58. Who went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body?
2. Read Matt. 27:59-60 and John 19:38-42. Who helped Joseph of Arimathea prepare Jesus for burial? Where was He buried?
3. Read Matt. 27:61. Who was keeping the watch at Jesus' tomb?
4. Read Matt. 27:62-66. Why were the chief priests and Pharisees so determined to have the tomb made secure? How did Pilate handle their request? (See front of lesson.)

Memory Verse

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)

Good News For You And Me! Jesus Has Risen From The Dead!

"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. 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. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. But the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.' So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word."



"And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, 'Rejoice!' So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.'" - Matthew 28:1-10

Remember that Jesus kept telling His disciples that He would be betrayed, put to death, and then rise the third day? (See Matthew 16:21, Matthew 17:22-23, and Matthew 20:17-19.)

**GREAT JOY! JESUS IS ALIVE!
BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE WILL TOO!!!**

"Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, Whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But

now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one is in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." - 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" - John 11:25-26

**Good News For You and For Me!
Jesus Has Risen From the Dead!
Matthew 28:1-10**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. countenance- appearance
2. crucified- the method of torture and execution used by the Romans which involved attaching the victim with nails or leather thongs to a cross beam, leaving the victim to die. This was the Romans' most severe form of execution, reserved for slaves and criminals, only.
3. guard- some say a guard was eight to sixteen Roman soldiers, others say anywhere from twelve to seventy-two Roman soldiers; the guard was made up of hardened, battle-ready, courageous Roman soldiers and if they were ever found asleep on their watch, they would receive the death penalty
4. Mary Magdalene- she had "been healed of evil spirits and infirmities (sicknesses)" and seven demons were cast out of her. Also, she helped provide for Jesus and His disciples "from their substance (possessions)." (See Luke 8:1-3.)
5. rejoice- in Matthew 28:9, this word is used as a personal greeting meaning, "Joy to you!" or "Hail!" It was their way of saying, "Hello!"
6. Sabbath- the practice of observing one day in seven as a time of rest and worship. The Jewish Sabbath starts Friday night at 6:00 p.m. and ends Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Most Christians observe Sunday as their Sabbath in honor of the fact that Christ arose from the dead on Sunday, the first day of the week (Matt. 28:1). Thereafter, the New Testament Church was known to meet and worship on Sunday (Acts 20:7).
7. the other Mary- the mother of the disciples, James and Joses (Matt. 27:55-61; Mark 15:40; Mark 16:1-8). She was a follower of Jesus and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee (Mark 15:40-41).

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 28:1. Why did Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to Jesus' tomb? (Mark 16:1)
2. a. Read Matthew 28:2-4. Who rolled away the stone? (Matt. 28:2)

b. Remember that there could have been anywhere from eight to seventy-two Roman soldiers guarding the tomb. For this many Roman guards to be so afraid that they "shook with fear" and fainted, what do you think this angel must have been like? (Matt. 28:3)
3. Read Matthew 28:5-6. The angel did not roll away the stone so Jesus could get out. Jesus is God and didn't need the stone rolled away to get out. So why do you think the angel rolled away the stone? (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:3)
4. Read Matthew 28:7-8. What did the angel command the women to do?
5. a. Read Matthew 28:9-10. Who did they run into? What did He command them to do?

b. What does Jesus want us to do? (Matt. 28:20)

Memory Verse

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)

The Religious Leaders, Bribe The Soldiers To Lie About Jesus Rising

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

Jesus Tells His Disciples And Us What To Do Until He Returns.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen. " - Matthew 28:11-20



Notice what sort of fruit came from the ministry of the chief priests and elders. Lies and bribery. They even went so far as to use God's money (from the temple) to pay for the bribe!

Jesus will return soon. He has taught us with His Word, and now others need to know that there is hope. He has risen! Know the Word of God so you can give an answer to anyone who asks why you have hope. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" - 1 Peter 3:15

Jesus told us to make disciples, of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Many cults deny the Trinity and they twist the Word of God. Be on guard. Know what you believe and why you believe it. Are you born again?

Jesus didn't forsake His brothers who denied Him! He will never leave or forsake you.

Go and tell others about Jesus. There is hope.

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

Jesus Tells His Disciples And Us What To Do Until He Returns.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen. " - Matthew 28:11-20



Notice what sort of fruit came from the ministry of the chief priests and elders. Lies and bribery. They even went so far as to use God's money (from the temple) to pay for the bribe!

Jesus will return soon. He has taught us with His Word, and now others need to know that there is hope. He has risen! Know the Word of God so you can give an answer to anyone who asks why you have hope. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" - 1 Peter 3:15

Jesus told us to make disciples, of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Many cults deny the Trinity and they twist the Word of God. Be on guard. Know what you believe and why you believe it. Are you born again?

Jesus didn't forsake His brothers who denied Him! He will never leave or forsake you.

Go and tell others about Jesus. There is hope.

**The Religious Leaders Bribe the Soldiers
To Lie about Jesus Rising
Matthew 28:11-20**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's lesson

1. guard- some say a guard was eight to sixteen Roman soldiers, others say anywhere from twelve to seventy-two Roman soldiers; the guard was made up of hardened, battle-ready, courageous Roman soldiers and if they were ever found asleep on their watch, they would receive the death penalty
2. sealing- when the tomb was sealed, leather straps criss-crossed the tomb's opening and Caesar's stamp, or seal was set on top of the straps

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 28:11-15. After the Jewish leaders consulted together, what did they do? (vs. 12-14)
- b. Where do you think that the Jewish leaders got the money for the bribe?
- c. Why would the Jewish leaders "need" to appease the governor to keep the Roman soldiers safe? (vs. 14; See vocabulary: guard.)
- d. Do you think that it is possible that all of the guard fell asleep and the disciples were able to steal Jesus' body away? Why or why not?
2. a. Read Matthew 28:16-20. Jesus gave the disciples what we call "The Great Commission." What does "The Great Commission" from Jesus command us to do?
- b. How can you fulfill "The Great Commission"?

Memory Verse

"For I _____ to you _____ of all that which I also _____:
that _____ died for our _____ according to the _____, and that
He was _____, and that He _____ again the _____ day _____
to the _____"

I _____ 15: - (NKJV)