



Christ Crucified

Matthew 27:1-44

“When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Matthew 27:1-10

“Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’

‘What is that to us?’ they replied. ‘That’s your responsibility.’

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, ‘It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.’ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ‘They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.’”

Judas' Remorse

- Plot to kill Jesus continues
 - Not justice
- Judas' remorse
 - “saw that Jesus was condemned”
 - Provoke Jesus?
 - Defeat Romans
 - Avoid arrest?
 - Precedent:
 - Luke 4:30
 - John 8:59, 10:39
 - Money
 - John 12:6
- Peter's remorse
 - Not premeditated
 - After the fact
- Repented?
 - *metamelomai*
 - *metanoēō*
- 2 Corinthians 7:10:

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”
- Grief v despair

The Leaders React

“I have sinned”

Blood money!

“What is that to us?”

- No contemplation
- No challenge
- Accept innocence
 - don't care
- Judas a pawn

- What matters
 - Condemn the innocent?
 - Condemn collaborators?
 - Temple treasury?
- Matthew 23:24:

“You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”
- Prophecy fulfilled!

Matthew 27:11-26

“Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’

‘You have said so,’ Jesus replied.

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, ‘Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: ‘Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.’

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Matthew 27:11-26

“But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’ asked the governor.

‘Barabbas,’ they answered.

‘What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’ Pilate asked.

They all answered, ‘Crucify him!’

‘Why? What crime has he committed?’ asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify him!’

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood,’ he said. ‘It is your responsibility!’

All the people answered, ‘His blood is on us and on our children!’

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”

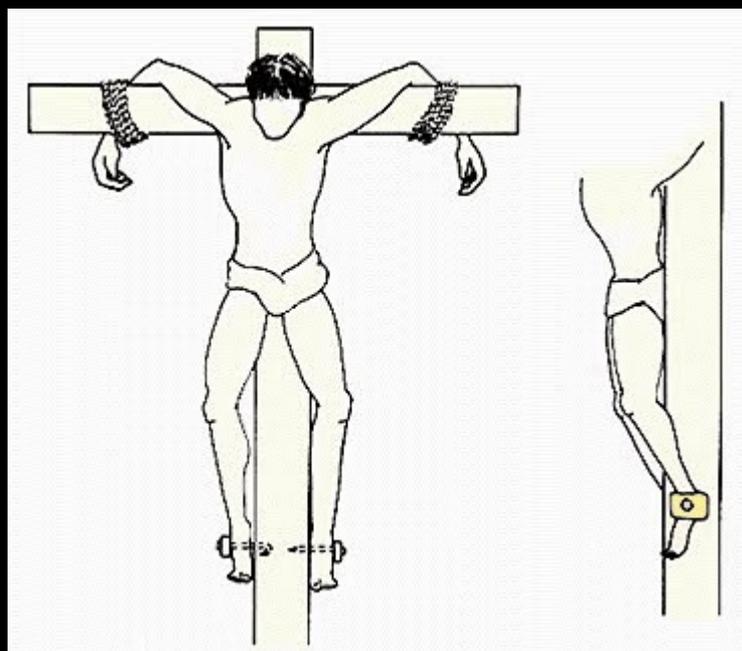
Pilate

- Roman governor in Judea
 - 27-36 AD
 - Reputation:
 - Corruption
 - Cruelty
 - Injustice
 - Capital punishment
 - The trial
 - Jesus says little
 - Admission of guilt
 - Believes in Jesus' innocence
 - Barabbas or Jesus?
 - Truth irrelevant
- “His blood is on us and on our children!”

Crucifixion

- Slow
- Painful
- Gruesome
- Humiliating
- Excruciating (lit. “out of the cross”)
- Not for Roman citizens
- Naked
- Flogging
- Carry cross (*patibulum*)
- Tied or nailed to the cross
- Sometimes a seat (*sedile*)
- Sing announcing name and crime
- Soldiers remain until death
- Death by asphyxiation, dehydration, shock, blood loss, sepsis, heart failure
- Death hastened by breaking legs, spear, fire
- Burial rare

“Jehohanan,
the son of
Hagakol”



Matthew 27:27-44

“Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ they said. They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means ‘the place of the skull’). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews.

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Matthew 27:27-44

“Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, “I am the Son of God.”’ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.”

Jesus' Crucifixion

- Humiliation
- Mocked and taunted:
 - Roman soldiers
 - Passers-by
 - Jewish leaders
 - Criminals

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

Cicero:

“a most cruel and disgusting punishment”

“the very mention of the cross should be far removed not only from a Roman citizen’s body, but from his mind, his eyes, his ears”

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.’

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

