

The Crucifixion and Death

April 10, 2020

For this lesson, we will be reading & analyzing the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death.

Matthew 27:35-40; 45-54

³⁵The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross and gambled to see who would get his clothes. ³⁶After, they sat down, and kept watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Anyone who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

⁴⁵From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” ⁵⁰And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split ⁵²and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the officer and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Discussion questions:

- What emotions & thoughts went through Jesus’ head while he was on the cross?
- How do you think Jesus felt hearing people say mean things to him?
- What do you think life on Earth was like for the three days that Jesus was dead?
- How would you feel being in Jesus place? What thoughts would cross your mind?

The approximant size of the cross that Jesus was crucified on was 13 feet tall and 9 feet wide. I want you to imagine carving your name in the wood of the cross. How many times do you think you could write your name? Hundreds? Maybe a few thousand? Depends on how small you write. But no matter how big or small you were to carve your name into the wood, Jesus would die for you a million times over again. Without hesitation. Because he loves you.

Self -Prayer: (Suggestion: Thank Jesus for his sacrifice, allowing you to live sin free.)