

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

### Matthew 27

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Judas' Remorse	27	1-2	Jesus led to Pilate
		3-10	Judas' remorse
Jesus before Pilate		11-14	Pilate: "Are You the King of the Jews?"
		15-18	Pilate: Barabbas or Jesus?
		19-23	The Crowd: "Crucify Him!"
		24-26	Pilate: "I am innocent of this Man's blood..."
Jesus Is Mocked		27-31	Jesus is mocked by the Roman soldiers
		32	Simon of Cyrene forced to help Jesus with the cross
The Crucifixion		33-34	Jesus is crucified
		35-37	Jesus' clothes divided by lot
		38-44	Jesus mocked on the cross by the two robbers and Jewish leaders
		45-50	Jesus' speaks His final words and gives up His spirit
		51-54	Events in Jerusalem at Jesus' death
		55-56	Women at crucifixion
Jesus Is Buried		57-61	Jesus is buried by Joseph of Arimathea and observed by Mary Magdalene and the other Mary
		62-66	Chief priests ask for a guard to be placed on the tomb

<b>Themes in the Chapter<sup>2</sup></b>	Commandments, Discipleship, Faith, God, History, Prophecy, Salvation, Sin
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### Reflections

In this chapter we find Judas feeling remorse for betraying Jesus and his suicide as a result of not being able to find solace for his regret. We also have Matthew's account of the Jesus' trial before Pilate, the Roman governor, and His crucifixion and burial.

### Questions

1. What did the chief priests and elders of the people do with Jesus after their "trial"? V1-2
2. How did Judas Iscariot react after Jesus' trial and condemnation took place? What was the response of the chief priests and elders to Judas' request? V3-10
3. What happens during the initial interchange between Pilate, Jesus and the chief priests and elders? V11-14
4. What Passover tradition does Pilate seek to utilize the free Jesus and what is the result? V15-18

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

<sup>2</sup> (Full Color Bible) Theme suggestions without references to allow the reader to discover them in their reading.

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

5. What message does Pilate receive during this time and from whom? Who do the chief priests and the elders incite the crowd to demand be released and what do they shout should be done to the other? V19-23
6. What realization did Pilate from the response of the crowd and what did he do? V24-26
7. How was Jesus treated by the Roman cohort and who else was forced to assist Jesus with carrying His cross to the place of His crucifixion? V27-32
8. What were the events of Jesus' crucifixion as recorded by Matthew? V33-54
9. What arrangements were made for Jesus' burial and who were involved in it? V57-61
10. What did the chief priests and Pharisees approach Pilate about on the day following the day of preparation for the Passover and what did Pilate then order to be done for them? V62-66

### Conclusion

This chapter is filled with references to prophecies from the Old Testament and from Jesus' own life that were fulfilled in the events concerning His arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial. These alone should be enough confirmation that Jesus really was the Son of God and the long expected Messiah that was proclaimed would come for a number of generations. Many people have tried to disprove the reality of the resurrection of Jesus through the years and most have been converted to believers after investigating all the evidence surrounding it (Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel, etc.)<sup>3</sup>. I'm convinced that if any person took the effort to truly investigate the facts concerning Jesus' life, they would come to the same conclusion.

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### *There and Then: Here and Now*

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study<sup>4</sup>: *my LOG vs others SPECK. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.*

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

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E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

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C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

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K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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<sup>3</sup> (McDowell; Strobel, *The Case for Christ*; Strobel, *The Case for Faith*)

<sup>4</sup> *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

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### Response to Questions

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1. When morning had come, they delivered Jesus to Pilate the Roman governor, because they decided that Jesus should be executed. This fulfilled what Jesus said about His immediate future as they traveled to Jerusalem for His final Passover observance.

Matthew 20:18-19 NASB "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, 19 and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."

2. The text says that Judas felt remorse and tried to return the thirty pieces of silver and confessed that he had sinned and betrayed innocent blood. However the chief priests and elders would have nothing to do with him or the thirty pieces of silver. To which Judas threw the money in the temple sanctuary and went out and hanged himself. Maybe this was a way of fulfilling the law regarding the punishment of a false witness (see Deuteronomy 19:15-21). The chief priests didn't believe the money could be returned to the temple treasury because it was "blood money" so they purchased a plot of land to use as a burial plot for strangers—the Potter's Field or Field of Blood (Hakeldama or Aceldama, cf. Acts 1:19).

Most commentators agree that this was prophesied by Zechariah (11:12-13), not Jeremiah, as the text reads. It could be associated with Jeremiah from the references to the potter in Jeremiah 18-19 or the conjecture that Zechariah chapters 9-11 were originally written by Jeremiah. The reasons for this identification have been identified and explained by most commentators<sup>5</sup>, so I won't go into that here any further.

When comparing Judas' repentance to Peter's, Henry<sup>6</sup> notes these differences between the two.

See here how Judas *repented*: not like Peter, who repented, believed, and was pardoned: no, he repented, despaired, and was ruined.

Could Judas have received forgiveness from God? I think so. Why, you may ask? Here are a couple of thoughts. First, let's go back to the words of Jesus concerning the unforgivable sin.

Matthew 12:31-32 NASB "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. 32 "Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

If Peter was forgiven for denying that he knew Jesus, couldn't Judas have been forgiven for betraying Him? Yes, I believe so. Why? Well, they are different in nature but still sin and from what Jesus said and what we know from the rest of the Bible, God doesn't make any distinction between sin except for Jesus' stipulation regarding blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. So I believe that Judas could have been forgiven.

Additionally I think it would us do well to remember the message that God gave to Cain after his sacrifice was rejected.

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5 (Torrey; Barnes; Walvoord and Zuck; Clarke; Henry; Orr "Akeldama"; Hastings, *Hastings Dict.* 1of5 "Akeldama"; Hastings, *Hastings Dict.* "Akeldama"; Smith) and others.

6 (Henry)

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

**Genesis 4:6-7 NASB** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **7** "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

I believe that Judas had at his disposal the ability to find relief for his remorse and could have chosen a different outcome, no matter how great his remorse was. As God said to Cain, if we let our emotions get the better of us, the outcome is usually disastrous at some level, possibly even resulting in loss of life, both physical and spiritual.

This is just my opinion but I could be wrong.

3. Initially, Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews, probably because that was one of the accusations made against Jesus from the chief priests and elders. Jesus' response was, "It is as you say." The rest of the charges were presented by the chief priests and elders to Pilate during which Jesus remained silent, which Matthew reports amazed Pilate.
4. The Roman governor would traditionally release a prisoner at the time of the Passover. The IVP Bible Background Commentary offers this explanation.

Customs like this release of a prisoner varied locally. Roman law recognized two kinds of amnesty: acquittal before the trial and pardon of the condemned; this is the latter. Pilate was not required by law to cooperate, but he had severely irritated the priestly aristocracy and Jerusalemites at the beginning of his tenure and may have wished to avoid further problems.

Pilate seeking to find a way out, because he knew the true motives of the people who handed Jesus over to them, offered a choice to the people: Barabbas or Jesus. Barabbas was a well known, notorious criminal. The *ISBE*<sup>7</sup> suggests that Barabbas might have had a name similar to Jesus and the literal meaning of Barabbas is "son of the father" or master. So the selection of Barabbas (who everyone knew was truly guilty) and Jesus (which Pilate had determined to be not guilty but falsely accused out of jealousy) might have been a contrast not only in character but in name as well.

5. Pilate receives a message from his wife telling him to not to have anything to do with Jesus as a result of being disturbed during the night. Was this dream from God? It is hard to say. Consider the following: Abraham and Abimelech (Gen 20); Joseph (Gen 37); Solomon (1Ki 3); Joseph (Mat 1); Daniel (various); and these references in Deuteronomy 13 and Joel 2/Acts 2.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-3 NASB** "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, **2** and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' **3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Acts 2:15-18 NASB** "For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is *only* the third hour of the day; **16** but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: **17** 'AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,' God says, 'THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND

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<sup>7</sup> (Orr "Barabbas")

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; 18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT And they shall prophesy.

So the dream that Pilate's wife had could very well have been from God as God has in the past used dreams to reveal His purposes. Either way Pilate ignored the message and was more concerned with appeasing the agitators and keeping the peace. This is seen in his response to the crowd's (being stirred up by the chief priests and elders) demand to release Barabbas rather than Jesus. Pilate then asked what he should do with Jesus and that is when the crowd began shouting "Crucify Him!"

It was truly sad that the same Passover attendees who were probably cheering for Jesus just a few days earlier as He entered the city on a donkey were now shouting for His death. But Jesus was coming in the name of the Lord and He was taking His rightful place as King, the King who was going to conquer over sin and death by going to the cross.

6. Pilate realized that all of his attempts to bring about a peaceful end to this confrontation was accomplishing nothing. So he symbolically washes his hands of the situation, releases Barabbas and turns Jesus over to be scourged and crucified. The crowd then declared that Jesus' blood would be on the heads of themselves and their children. With that Pilate released Barabbas and delivered Jesus to be scourged and crucified.
7. Upon being delivered to the governor's Roman cohort, Jesus was stripped and clothed with a scarlet robe and crowned with a wreath of thorns fashioned into a crown. Then the soldiers bowed before Him mockingly, proclaiming Him the "King of the Jews!" They then set about abusing Him by spitting on Him and hitting Him on His head with a reed they had placed in His hand as a scepter. After this, they redressed Him in His original clothes and led Him out to be crucified, making Him carry His own cross. At some point along the way, Simon, a man of Cyrene, was forced to help Jesus carry His cross.
8. Below is a table of the prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus concerning the Messiah's mistreatment and death from the Old Testament. Note how many of them are included in the book of Matthew in particular. This is because he was writing to a mostly Jewish audience and so this would make them understand that the events that were expected to happen to the Messiah were in fact fulfilled by Jesus.

For this particular question, the entries listed below, beginning at "Fell under the Cross" through "Darkness over the Land", cover the event in verses 33-56.

Prophecies	Other events not prophesied
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gall and Vinegar Offer to Him</li><li>• Garments Parted and Lots Cast</li><li>• Crucified with Thieves</li><li>• People Shook Their Heads</li><li>• Mocked</li><li>• Darkness over the Land</li><li>• His Forsaken Cry</li><li>• Gall and Vinegar Offer to Him</li><li>• Friends Stood Afar Off</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veil of the temple torn from top to bottom</li><li>• Violent earthquake</li><li>• Tombs opened and many dead "believers" seen alive</li><li>• Roman soldiers became frightened</li><li>• Centurion declared, "Truly this was the Son of God!"</li></ul>

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Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled about the Messiah fulfilled during Jesus' Crucifixion <sup>8</sup>			
Topic	Prophecy	Old Testament	New Testament
Arrest, Trial, and Death - Events In One Day	Betrayed by a Friend	Psalms 41:9; 55:12-14	Matthew 10:4; 26:49-50; John 13:21
	Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15; 27:3
	Money Thrown Into God's House	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
	Price Given for Potter's Field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7
	Forsaken by Disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50
	Accused by False Witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59-60
	Silent before Accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
	Wounded and Bruised	Psalms 22:16; Isaiah 53:5; Zechariah 13:6	Matthew 27:26
	Smitten and Spit Upon	Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1	Matthew 26:67; Luke 22:63
	Mocked	Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:29, 41-43
	Fell under the Cross	Psalms 109:24-25	Matthew 27:31-32; Luke 23:25; John 19:17
	Hands and Feet Pierced	Psalms 22:16; Zechariah 12:10	Luke 23:33; John 20:25
	Crucified with Thieves	Isaiah 53:12 (Deuteronomy 21:23)	Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27-28
	Made Intercession for His Persecutors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
	Rejected by His Own People	Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 69:8; 118:22	Matthew 21:42-43; John 1:11; 7:5, 48
	Hated Without Cause	Psalms 69:4; Isaiah 49:7	John 15:25
	Friends Stood Afar Off	Psalms 38:11	Matthew 27:55-56; Luke 23:49; Mark 15:40
	People Shook Their Heads	Psalms 22:4; 109:25	Matthew 27:39
	Stared Upon	Psalms 22:17	Luke 23:35
	Garments Parted and Lots Cast	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24
	To Suffer Thirst	Psalms 69:21	John 19:28
	Gall and Vinegar Offer to Him	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34; John 19:28-29
	His Forsaken Cry	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
	Committed Himself to God	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46

<sup>8</sup> (McDowell), pp. 164-202.; (*100 Prophecies; Jesus; Why Trust The Bible*)

## Judas' Remorse; Jesus Before Pilate, Crucifixion, and Burial

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled about the Messiah fulfilled during Jesus' Crucifixion			
Topic	Prophecy	Old Testament	New Testament
	Bones Not Broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
	Heartbroken	Psalms 22:14	John 19:34
	His Side Pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
	Darkness over the Land	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
	Buried in a Rich Man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

9. Joseph of Arimathea made arrangements with Pilate to bury Jesus in his personal tomb. In John, we find out that Nicodemus also helped Joseph with the burial. In Luke we also find out that Joseph was a member of the Council along with Nicodemus and the burial preparations were hastened because of the Passover which was hours away at this point. We also learn in Matthew that a couple of the women were present so that they might know where Jesus was buried.
10. The chief priests and Pharisees remembered Jesus declaring that He would rise again in three days, so they asked for a guard to be placed on the grave to keep the disciples from stealing the body and give some false testimony concerning His resurrection. So Pilate granted them a guard and they secured the stone and placed a seal on the stone covering the grave opening.

**Key Words:** New Testament, Gospels, Matthew, Judas, Remorse, Suicide, Jesus, Pilate, Barabas, Crucifixion, Burial



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