

Matthew 27:26-44

● RESURRECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 26-28

- o Death of Judas...
 - When JUDAS saw that Jesus had been CONDEMNED to death...
 - He REGRETTED [not repented] his choice to BETRAY Him - and brought back the MONEY...
 - He admitted he SINNED because he BETRAYED an INNOCENT man...
 - But the PRIESTS had no compassion - they responded that is YOUR problem...
 - So Judas threw down the money - and went and hung himself...
 - The priests took the money and bought a field in the Hinnom Valley [γέεννα]!
- o Final Trial...
 - The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to Pontius Pilate [they could not execute Him]
 - They made MANY accusation against Jesus - but He did NOT say a WORD...
 - Pilate had a CUSTOM of releasing ONE prisoner on the PASSOVER...
 - He gave the Jews a CHOICE - did they want BARABBAS [murderer] or Jesus [Christ]
 - The people chose BARABBAS - and demanded [imperfect] Jesus be CRUCIFIED!

● 1ST - THE PREPARATION... vs. 26-31

- o 1st - Scourged... vs. 26
 - When he had scourged Jesus [Pilate] delivered Him to be crucified!
 - SCOURGED [φραγελλώω] - 2x in NT - only used in the crucifixion!
 - Scourging was a Roman interrogation method – meant to force a confession...
 - The prisoner would be tied to a post – with their back bent over and exposed...
 - 39 lashes from a TWO inch leather whip [imbedded with metal and glass]
 - It would tear the back open – ripping flesh and muscle down to the bone...
 - After each lash you would be asked to confess – if you did the torture would lessen...
 - If you did NOT confess – the lashings would grow STRONGER...
 - Jesus was SILENT - meaning the scourging nearly killed Him!
 - **Isaiah 53:7** – “He was oppressed and treated harshly yet he never said a word.”
- o 2nd - King of Jews... vs. 27-30
 - The Robe... vs. 27-28
 - Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium.
 - And gathered the whole garrison around Him - stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him!
 - After the SCOURGING - Jesus was taken to the PRAETORIUM [πραιτώριον]
 - Thought to be the ANTONIO fortress on the north west side overlooking the Temple Mount...
 - There the entire GARRISON [600 troops] surrounded Jesus - and took off His clothes [naked]
 - They placed a SCARLET [κόκκινος] robe on him - which presents a PROBLEM...
 - Because in the parallel account in MARK - we are told it was PURPLE [πορφύρα]!
 - Ask TWO people look at a ONE color and tell you what it is...
 - More often than not - they are going to give you a DIFFERENT answer!
 - If the stories were EXACTLY the same - people might assume it was NOT genuine...
 - That Matthew saw a slightly different color - actually gives the account validity...
 - It also may have deeper meaning - SCARLET points to the SACRIFICE of Jesus - **Isaiah 1:18**
 - And the color PURPLE points to the fact Jesus is KING [color of kings]
 - Crown of thorns... vs. 29-30
 - 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!

- The SOLDIERS made a CROWN of THORNS [ἄκανθα]
- THORNS in Israel are between THREE and SIX centimeters long [and very sharp]
- Having put a REED [scepter] in His hand - they BOWED before Him - **Romans 14:11**
- And MOCKED [imperfect] Him saying - REJOICE [χαίρω] it is the King of the Jews...
- Then they SPIT on Him - and BEAT [imperfect] the THORNS into His HEAD with the REED!
- THORNS in the Bible are a PICTURE of the CURSE - **Genesis 3:18**
- They represent the CARES of this world that keep us from being FRUITFUL - **Matthew 13:22**
- Jesus was willing to take our CURSE - and our CARES...
- He was BEATEN with them - so that we could be set FREE - **John 8:36**
- **2ND - THE CRUCIFIXION... vs. 31-38**
 - 1st - Via Dolorosa... vs. 31-32
 - Heavy burden... vs. 31
 - When they had mocked - Him they took the robe off Him - put His own clothes on Him.
 - And led Him away to be crucified!
 - After the SOLDIERS had their fun - they put His clothes back on...
 - Then they LED [ἀπάγω] Jesus to be CRUCIFIED [σταυρώω]
 - They placed a LARGE cross beam [30-50 kilograms] on His lacerated back...
 - It was the responsibility of the CONDEMNED to bear their own CROSS!
 - **Luke 9:23** - "If anyone desires to come after Me let him deny himself - and take up his cross daily - and follow Me."
 - The choice to follow Jesus - is NOT an easy one...
 - What we are saying is that we are willing to DIE to ourselves...
 - We CHOOSE to take up our CROSS daily - and follow Him!
 - Simon... vs. 32
 - Now as they came out they found a man of Cyrene - Simon by name.
 - Him they compelled to bear His cross!
 - As they LED Jesus out of the CITY - His cross became too heavy to bear...
 - The SOLDIERS found a man from CYRENE [Libya] - called SIMON...
 - He was FORCED to pick up the CROSS and carry it for Jesus!
 - Although we do NOT know for sure what happened to SIMON after this...
 - His inclusion in all THREE synoptic gospels suggests he was well known in the early church...
 - Some think he was part of the REVIVAL in the city of Antioch - **Acts 11:20**
 - And that his son RUFUS [**Mark 15:21**] became a missionary to Rome - **Romans 16:13**
 - While it is NOT easy to take up our CROSS and follow Jesus...
 - The good news is we are NOT alone - we are surrounded by FAMILY...
 - Brothers and sisters who would LOVE to help us carry our BURDEN!
 - **Galatians 6:2** - "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."
 - 2nd - Golgotha... vs. 33
 - The Skull...
 - When they had come to a place called Golgotha - that is to say: Place of a Skull!
 - Jesus was taken to a place called GOLGOTHA [גִּלְגֹּתָא] - in Latin it is called CALVARY...
 - It is a HILL on the NORTH side of the city of Jerusalem [looks like a skull]
 - Located next to the main road into the city - it was the common place for EXECUTIONS!
 - This is ALSO the HIGHEST point of Mount MORIAH...
 - The EXACT place where Abraham went to offer Isaac!
 - **Genesis 22:14** - "Abraham called the name of the place: [יְהוָה יִרְאֶה]. As it is said to this day: In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided!"
 - Outside...

- **Hebrews 13:12** - "Jesus [to] sanctify the people with His blood - suffered outside the gate."
 - Jesus had to LEAVE the TEMPLE - the presence of God...
 - He went OUTSIDE of the city to the place called - GOD will PROVIDE!
 - He had to go there - because we were also on the OUTSIDE ...
 - Our sin had SEPARATED us from God - and Jesus came to PROVIDE a way BACK...
 - He did so through His BLOOD - so that He might SANCTIFY [ἀγιάζω] us!
- o 3rd - The Cross... vs. 34-35
- Vinegar... vs. 34
 - They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. When He tasted it He would not drink!
 - The SOLDIERS gave Jesus VINEGAR mixed with a bitter herb [myrrh]
 - Likely an inexpensive cheap drink used by the SOLDIERS to get DRUNK...
 - It was MEANT to dull the PAIN for what was coming next...
 - Jesus tasted it - and refused [imperfect] - so He could take the FULL weight of our SIN!
 - Excruciating...
 - Then they crucified Him!
 - At 9am in the morning they CRUCIFIED [σταυρώω] Jesus - **Mark 15:25**
 - CRUCIFIXION is arguably the most PAINFUL form of death ever invented...
 - Created by the Persians around 300 B.C. [impalement]
 - It was modified by the Romans to prolong the death [could take days]!
 - Jesus was placed on His back and nailed between the bones of His forearm [20cm spike]
 - His knees were bent to 45° angle – the feet then nailed to the cross...
 - Placed upright – Jesus would have been UNABLE to bear His own weight...
 - His shoulders would pop out – followed by elbows – then wrist [all hyperextended]
 - Tired and oxygen deprived – it became harder and harder to breath...
 - Death came from slow asphyxiation – and finally death came from a BROKEN heart!
- o 4th - The Prophecies... vs. 35/38
- Gambling... vs. 35
 - [They] divided His garments casting lots - fulfilling that which was spoken by the prophet:
 - They divided My garments among them - and for My clothing they cast lots!
 - The SOLDIERS decided to cast LOTS for Jesus clothing...
 - The problem was Jesus had a nice COAT made of ONE piece of cloth - **John 19:23**
 - So rather than CUTTING it [ruining it] - they decided to GAMBLE for it...
 - This seemingly MINOR details - is included in all FOUR Gospels...
 - Because it points us back to the PSALM that predicted the death of the Messiah!
 - The Psalm opens with: My God - My God - why have you forsaken me - **Psalms 22:1**
 - It goes on to say they PIERCED His hands and feet - **Psalms 22:15**
 - And even had the DETAIL that they gambled for His CLOTHES - **Psalms 22:18**
 - A lot of people like to GAMBLE – we tend to think we can beat the odds...
 - But we do NOT just like to gamble with our money – we gamble with our ETERNITY...
 - Living for this world - thinking there is still time to get RIGHT with God
 - It is not worth the risk – do must play around with our salvation – choose Jesus NOW!
 - Thieves... vs. 38
 - Then two robbers were crucified with Him one on the right and another on the left!
 - There were TWO thieves crucified beside Jesus [one on each side]
 - This also fulfilled PROPHECY as we are told in the parallel account - **Mark 15:28**
 - **Isaiah 53:9** - "He was buried like a criminal [but] was put in a rich mans grave." [NLT]
 - NOTHING about CROSS was a surprise - God gave David the details 1000 years earlier...
 - And told Isaiah who He would DIE with - and where He would be BURIED!

- Forgive them...
 - Jesus had been MOCKED - BEATEN - and was being CRUCIFIED...
 - Yet as the SOLDIERS gambled for the last possessions He had on earth...
 - And He hung between two THIEVES - as if He were also a common CRIMINAL...
 - Rather than being BITTER - He simply showed GRACE!
 - **Luke 22:34** - "Father forgive [imperative] them for they do not know [perfect] what they do."
 - Like Jesus we know what is going to happen to us in life...
 - People are going to MOCK us - and they are going to HURT us...
 - But rather than getting BITTER at them - we need to remember...
 - They do NOT know [perfect] what they are doing - they are LOST...
 - Which is why we FORGIVE them - hoping to show them the LOVE of God!
- o 5th - The accusation... vs. 36-37
 - 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!**
 - Having CRUCIFIED Jesus - the SOLDIERS sat down to wait for His death...
 - They placed a SIGN with His CRIME over His head: Jesus the King of the Jews!
 - It was written in THREE languages: Latin [INRI] - Greek - and Hebrew...
 - The Jewish priests objected - they wanted Pilate to CHANGE the wording...
 - The reason for the objection - the acronym in Hebrew was Yahweh [יהוה]
 - **John 19:22** - "Pilate answered: What I have written - I have written."
- 3RD - THE CHOICE... vs. 39-44
 - o 1st - Save Yourself... vs. 39-43
 - The Crowd... vs. 39-40
 - 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!
 - The CROWDS that passed by the ROAD - BLASPHEMED [imperfect] the Lord...
 - They TAUNTED Jesus - He said he could destroy the Temple and rebuild it in THREE days...
 - Anyone who could do that - must SAVE [imperative] themselves...
 - SINCE [indicative] He is the Son of God - He must [imperative] come down from the CROSS!
 - The people were BLIND - they did NOT see Jesus was DESTROYING the TEMPLE....
 - Not the BUILDING - but His BODY - and in THREE days He would RISE again!
 - **John 2:21** - "[Jesus] was speaking of the temple of His body."
 - The Leaders... vs. 41-42
 - 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!
 - The Religious leaders joined in on the MOCKING...
 - Jesus had SAVED others [indicative] - but lacked the POWER [δύναμις] to save Himself...
 - SINCE [indicative] He is the King of Israel - He MUST [imperative] come down...
 - Then all of the leader would [future] put their FAITH [πιστεύω] in Him!
 - Jesus did NOT lack POWER - far from it - He is the ALMIGHTY - **Revelation 1:8**
 - ALMIGHTY [παντοκράτωρ] - ALL [πᾶς] POWERFUL [κράτος]
 - But He chose to use His power to SAVE rather than HIMSELF!
 - Trusting God... vs. 43
 - He trusted in God. Let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him.

- For He said: I am the Son of God!
 - Jesus put His FAITH [πιστεύω] in God - let us see if THE God [ὁν θεόν] wants [θέλω] Him...
 - For Jesus said - He was [no article] a SON of [no article] a god...
 - But the WILL of THE God for Jesus - was for Him to NOT come down!
 - **Luke 22:42** - "Not My will [θέλω] - but Yours be done."
 - Jesus could have come down off the CROSS at any point...
 - He did NOT have to SUFFER - He did NOT deserve to DIE...
 - But He stayed - because it was the WILL of the FATHER...
 - He stayed - because it was the ONLY way for us to be FORGIVEN...
 - If He had SAVED Himself - then NONE of us could have been SAVED!
- o 2nd - Repentance... vs. 44
- Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing!
 - The THIEVES beside Jesus also joined in MOCKING Him...
 - Saying SINCE [indicative] You are the CHRIST save [imperative] Yourself and US - **Luke 23:39**
 - But perhaps seeing how Jesus RESPONDED to the mocking [said nothing]
 - Concluding that Jesus was an INNOCENT man - and had done NO wrong...
 - ONE of the THIEVES had a change of HEART - and said to Jesus...
 - Lord [κύριος] remember me when You come into Your kingdom...
 - Jesus - who had been SILENT up until this point - SPOKE!
 - **Luke 23:43** - "[Ἀμήν] I say to you today you will be with Me in Paradise."
 - Like those thieves – we have a choice – what do we do with Jesus...
 - He gave up everything – condemned to death for us – paying our penalty...
 - He suffered unimaginably – so that we might experience the Joy of heaven...
 - Do we believe – do we receive - His gift of forgiveness!