

THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST (matt 26:36-36-75, mm 14:15-73, Luke 22:66-71)

After Jesus had celebrated the last supper with his disciples, he went with them to the garden of gethsemane. He took with him, peter James and john and revealed to them how his soul was very sorrowful even to death. He asked them to remain where he kept and watch with him he left them to a separate place to pray to God saying ' my father, if it will be possible let this cup pass over me, never the less not as I will but as you wilt''

The cup here referred to the suffering he was to undergo. He returned to his disciples on three occasions and still found them sleeping. He questioned them on why they could not watch with him for at least one hour. He also advised them to watch and pray in order to avoid temptation. He told them that the spirit was willing but the flesh is weak, and he left them to pray for the second time saying "my father, if this cannot pass, unless I drink it, thy will be done" he came back again and met his disciples in deep slumber. He went to pray for the third time. He returned and asked them if they were still sleeping that the hour of betrayal is at hand

As he was still speaking, Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples led the crowd who came with sticks to arrest Jesus after identifying him with a kiss, Jesus did not resist his arrest

The sane dun had gathered and Jesus was led to Caiaphas the high priest for trial peter strayed in the country and waiting to see the outcome of the tragedy

Many false accusations were made against him with false witness among them were

Jesus said that he would destroy the temple and built it again in three days.

He claimed to be son of God and the messiah

The high priest then asked Jesus for the confirmation of these claims. Jesus answered him " you have said so" Jesus added "you will see the son of man seated at the righ hand of God the high priest was infuriated and therefore no need for more witness hence they concluded that Jesus deserve to die.

Ways they expressed their hatred towards Jesus

Some spat on his face

Some struck him

Some slapped him

Some controlled him to prophesy to them, who has struck him.

During the trial of Jesus, peter was outside the courtyard, they denied Jesus first and also to

the second time from two separate maids and the third time before the by stander who identified him as one of his disciples, when the cock crow, peter remembered what Jesus had told him at the last supper and he went away, wept bitterly.

The words of Jesus on the cross

The chief priest and the elders resolved that Jesus should be bound and taken to Pilate for trial since it was not in their power to pass death sentence on Jesus. They bring some political charges against Jesus namely:

1. He claimed to be the king in order to overthrow Caesar.
2. He was forbidding payment of tax to Caesar.
3. He was parroting the nation i.e. inciting people to cause trouble.

Pilate examined Jesus and found no reason to condemn him to death. Pilate wanted to set him free but the Jews refused even His wife sent a message across to him not to have anything to do with the death of Jesus, however it was too much for the government to set a prisoner free in commutation of the Passoverfeast. Pilate therefore presented Barnabas a notorious thief and Jesus to the Jews to choose one. They preferred Barnabas to Jesus. Pilate washed his hands publicly to declare his innocence, in the blood of Jesus into Pilate's wife had described as a righteous man.

The people answered that his blood should be on them and their children, "Pilate to their demand not because he found Jesus guilty because he wanted to please the angry mob in order to maintain law and order.

They took Jesus to the pact rum (Heater) where he was beaten stripped naked put him in scarlet robe crowned him with thorns mocked at him, spat on him and let time out to be crucified.

Jesus before Herod (Lk 23:6-12)

The account of Jesus trial before Herod is found only in Luke gospel. When Pilate heard that Jesus came from Galilee and having found Jesus guiltless of any charge. He sent him over to Herod who was then a visitor in Jerusalem because Galilee was under his jurisdiction.

Herod was glad to see Jesus as he was expecting him to perform miracle that he has been hearing of him. Herod questioned Jesus but he did not answer any of his questions nor perform any miracle, they accused Jesus, mocked him and treated him with contempt, they dressed

Jesus in a gorgeous robe and sent him back to Pilate. This action of Herod restored the broken relationship between Herod and Pilate.

Lessons learnt from the trials of Jesus Christ

1. We should learn to pray always.
2. God's words must be fulfilled.
3. Jesus silence to his accusers he willingly submitted to death.
4. False accusation lead to punishment of innocent person.
5. Jesus suffered for no fault of his but for our sins.
6. We should not allow people to push us into the wrong thing like Pilate.
7. We should not be ashamed/afraid of confessing Christ before men in all situation.

Topic: The Crucifixion, Death and Burial of Jesus

(Matt 27:23, Mk 15:16, Lk 23)

After Pilate has delivered Jesus to the Jews they took him away and gathered soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They crowned him with thorns, bowed to him in mockery saying "hail king of the Jews, they spent on him and forced him to carry on the head his cross.

They made him to carry the heavy cross and walked up to the hill of Calvary, he fell down three times and where he became very weak, they asked Simon of Cyrene to help him to carry his cross to a place of skull, they offered him vinegar which could not drink, they crucified him and divided his garment among the people by casting lots. An inscription was put over his head which reads "this is Jesus the king of the Jews". Passer by mocked him like saved others he cannot save himself even one of the robbers who were on his side joined to mock him, around the sixth hour (3pm) Jesus cried with a loud voice Eli Eli Lama Sabetha meaning "my God my God why has thou forsaken me. Finally he cried "it is finished" which was an expression of victory many signs followed the Jesus.e.g.

The curtain of the temple tore into two from the top to the bottom.

The earth shook, the rocks split the tombs were opened. The soldiers who were watching over Jesus were witnesses acknowledged that Jesus was truly the son of God

The burial of Jesus

Joseph of Arimathea a secret disciple of Jesus obtained permission from Pilate to bury the body of Jesus. This was granted and he buried him in his own (Joseph) tomb. Those who were present at the crucifixion of Jesus were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph and Mary the mother of Jesus, and the mother of the son of Zebedee.

Significance of Jesus's death

Jesus died to save the world

The blood of Jesus was shed for the atonement of sins

The messiahship of Jesus was accomplished on the cross of Calvary

Jesus' death was to fulfill the scripture

Christians should live a life worthy of the gospel of Jesus