

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTED BY EVAG. NWORIE OGOBUCHI ON 2020-01-18

TOPIC: CRUCIFICATION OF JESUS

TEXT: MATT. 26:1-5; 27:1-2; 22-26

PURPOSES

1. To remind Christians of the important of Christ's death.
2. To understand the aim of Christ's death.

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION

DISCUSSIONS

- THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS (27:27-31)
- THE KING ON THE CROSS (27:32-44)
- THE DEATH OF CHRIST (27:45-56)
- THE BURIAL OF CHRIST (27:57-61)
- THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S DEATH

CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

Crucifixion was a practice probably adopted from Persian government. This practice was considered by the Romans to be the cruellest form of execution. This punishment was reserved for the worst criminals. However, Roman citizens were not crucified. The victim usually died after two or three days of agonizing suffering, enduring, thirst, exhaustion, and exposure. The victim's arms were nailed to a beam, which was hoisted up and fixed to a post, to which the feet of the victim would be nailed. The body weight was supported by a peg on which the victim sat. Death through cross was considered a curse on the victim (Gal.3:13).

The leaders of the Jews knew they could not take Christ by argument or logic (22:56), and they did not dare take Him by force (21:46). Their only recourse was trickery to get Him. He accepted a disgraceful death to fulfil his saving mission (Jhn. 10:17-18)

DEFINITION

- THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS.
After Jesus Christ was found to be guiltless by Governor Pilate, He connived with the religious leaders to crucify an innocent saviour. They mocked and accused Him of offenses never committed (26:59-67; 27:27-31). They handed Him over to the soldiers for torture
- THE KING ON THE CROSS(27:33-44)
- Ps.22:7 predicted the insults that would be directed at the messiah. Out of mockery, they told Him to come down from the cross. He could not come down because he was the son of God who was sent on mission to deliver. He must fulfil His mission. He could not carry the cross-bar. Simon of Cyrene was compelled to assist him. Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus (Mark 15:21). Cyrene was in North Africa
- THE DEATH OF CHRIST (27:45-56).
At sixth hour was noon. Darkness as a result of eclipse of the sun. This was a supernatural occurrence. This was a symbol of agony for the sins of the world. My God! My God was a reminder for lifting up His soul from the power of grave. It finished was a cry of victory that defeated the sins of the world the temple veil torn signifying that God through His only son has opened up access to Himself. Only God could have torn the curtain of the old order of worship, to introduce the new and a better order.
Jesus Christ's supporters were there with Him mostly women. (27:55) they didn't run away like the apostles. They watched Him until He died. Before His death He made some remarkable statements. They are about seven key statements. One of them is asking for forgiveness of sins of the soldiers and His persecutor.

- **THE BURIAL OF CHRIST (John 19:31-42; Matt. 27:57-61).** Jesus died on Friday which was preparation day of the Jews, it was a day before the Sabbath (19:14). According to the Jewish laws (Deut.21:23). It was necessary to remove the bodies of executed criminals before sunset. This to avoid breaking of the law, so, the Jews requested that the legs of the condemned be broken. They broke their legs to make them suffocate and die. The saviour died before they came to His position. To make certain that Jesus was dead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Water and blood came out together as a proof of His death. (19:34). This account shows that the resurrection on the first day of the week (Sunday) not Saturday as claimed by some people. A disciple Judas betrayed Christ and a secret disciple Joseph of Arimathea requested from Governor Pilate to bury the body of Jesus Christ. Joseph was a rich member of the Jewish council (Matt.27:57; Mark 15:53). Nicodemus, like Joseph was a member of the council (John 3:1). At last, he identified with one who had come from above (John12:42). He spent about a hundred pounds on a mixture of myrrh, and aloes (19:39). It was a large amount. This was a common burial custom in Jewish land. Jesus was buried in a new tomb. Matthew specifies that the tomb belonged to Joseph (Matt.27:60). This was a fulfilment of a prophecy. The Messiah would be buried in a rich man's grave (Isaiah 53:9)
- **THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST(MATT. 27:45-56)**
Matthew's account (Matt. 27:61-65). The two Marys are also mentioned in vs.56. These women were witnessed to the burial of Jesus Christ. The next day was the Sabbath. The chief priests were Sadducees. The Pharisees and the Sadducees' common animosity toward Jesus united them. The Sadducees and Pharisees described the Lord Jesus as "that deceiver" when in reality they were the deceiver and hypocrites who claimed to be leading the people of God. (Matt. 26:3-5) but full of tricks. For emphasis, the verb secure is used three times in vs.64-66. Governor Pilate permitted them to mount guards around the tomb. The noun translated guard is a Latin word, since the soldiers and not part of the temple guards. To emphasise the impossibility of anyone stealing the body of Jesus. Matthew stressed that the tomb was (Matt. 27:66; Dan. 6:17) now the resurrection; although, Matthew is brief in his discussion of the resurrection of Christ, he defends it very carefully. First, the death of Jesus Christ brought the resurrection of the saints who died within the time of his ministry (Matt. 27:52; 63) these people did not receive the immortal resurrection bodies. Christ is the first fruit of the glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was attested by several witnesses, including an angel, various soldiers and the women at the tomb (vv. 1-10). The tomb with Jesus' body in it was sealed (Matt. 27:66), but later the body was not found there.
- **THE EXCUSE OF THE SOLDIERS (28:11-15)**
"His disciples came at night and stole Him away as we slept". The excuse of the soldiers was illogical; no Roman soldier would admit sleeping on the job, as the punishment for this was death. The excuse was to cover the bribe received from the leaders of the Jews. Matthew presents the evidence for Jesus' resurrection with the precision because the doctrine is essential to the Christian faith. The divine power came to shake the world. An earthquake marked the death of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 27:51); it came up again to evidence the resurrection (Matt. 28:2). The angels opening the tomb was not to permit Christ to come out, but allow people in so they could see that it was empty. John shows how Peter and others went into the tomb to get a good look. Peter carefully examined the place where Jesus' body had been the handkerchief around Christ's head had not been thrown aside, as might have been folded and laid aside. Perhaps the implication is that Christ did not rush out of the tomb, but carefully left His grave clothes neatly folded. Before the resurrection, John confessed that the apostles and disciples had unstable believe in Christ (Matt. 20:9). They did not know the scripture. The disciples believed because of what they saw in the tomb (v.8), not because of what they knew from Old Testament passages describing the saviour's resurrection (Luke 24:25-27; 44-47). He had earlier prophesied His resurrection, but their naive hearts could not accept. This is the reason why He was not sympathetic with Mary while crying for the body disappearance (John 20:11-18). He rather instructed them to "Rejoice" and "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee and there they will see Me".
- **THE APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN CHRIST**
Central to Christian faith is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. By recording the resurrection appearances, the New Testament leaves no doubt about the event. He appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18).

Other women (Matt. 28:1-10)
Peter (Luke 24:34)
The eleven (Luke 24:1-34)
At the Ascension (Mark 16:19; 20; Luke 24:50-53)
In Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; John 21:1-24)
Five hundred people (1Cor. 15:6)
James and apostles (1Cor. 15:7)
Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-6; 1Cor. 15:8)

SIGNIFICANT LESSONS TO LEARN

1. The world needed a saviour to save from sin (John 3:16-18).
2. Jesus Christ willingly laid down His life (10:10, 17,18).
3. Jesus Christ's seven key statements on the cross:
 - ❖ "Father forgive them" as the soldiers were throwing on His garment.
 - ❖ "Today you will be with me in paradise" for the remorseful robber.
 - ❖ He told John, "Behold, your mother!".
 - ❖ To His mother, "Woman, behold your son!".
 - ❖ "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?".
 - ❖ "I thirst"
 - ❖ "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit, it is finished!" (19:25-30; Luk. 23:44-47; Mark 16:33-34)
4. The rich and everybody must invest in the gospel.

CONCLUSION

The agonizing death of Jesus Christ came as a means of reconciling the world to God (2Cor. 5:14-16). He was killed like a criminal to save the criminally minded people of the world. His death was a deliberate to save mankind. What do you do with Jesus now? You need to come over to Him now! (Matt. 11:28-30). His resurrection has given us hope of resurrecting. Baptism is a sure way to connect resurrection the resurrection of Christ.