

**THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW**

Chapter 27:32-66

Thursday Morning Bible Study
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Wauwatosa, WI

1

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 33 - The procession comes to "Golgotha" – the "place of the skull." Latin – "Calvary".
- Not a hill, necessarily, but the place of execution, outside the city on a well-traveled road.
- Today there are two sights for Calvary: the "Church of the Holy Sepulcher" which would have been just outside of the western gate, and "Gordon's Calvary", just outside the Damascus gate on the north side.
- 34 – the "gall" could have been myrrh, given to deaden pain.

2

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 35 – The Gospels do not give a detailed description of the crucifixion. It was both horrifyingly painful and degrading.
- Deut. 21:33 – "Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse." (Absalom?)
- Nails were driven through the wrists and the heel bones. Legs were broken to hasten death.
- "Dividing up his clothes" – The executioners had the right to claim the possessions of the victim. John mentions the tunic that was not torn, but won by casting lots. (19:22-23)

3

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 36 – Once their gruesome task was done, the soldiers simply had to wait and guard against any interference.
- 37 – It was customary to write the charge and post it above the victim where it could be seen by the passers-by. The charge: “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” (INRI)
- This is the title used by the Wise Men when they were searching for the child.

4

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 38 – He was crucified between two robbers. Is. 53:12 – “He was numbered with the transgressors.” Tradition names them “Dysmas” (the one who was saved) and “Gestas.”
- It could have been that Barabbas had been slated to die with these two.

5

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 39- Not only must Jesus endure the physical pain of crucifixion, he must also be mocked by those who think they have finally won their battle with Jesus.
- 40 - The words, “If you are the Son of God . . .” are markedly similar to the words of Satan when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (Matt. 4).
- 41- The members of the Sanhedrin get in on the act. They try to cast doubt on everything Jesus did and stood for during his ministry.

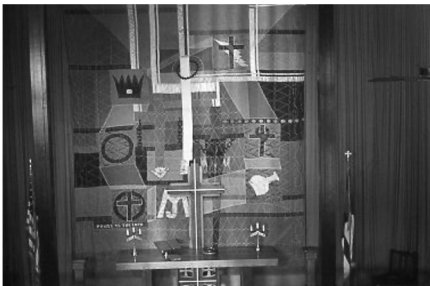
6

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 43 – The members of the Sanhedrin also picked up on the claim that Jesus was the Son of God. They do not understand that God is sacrificing His Son for them.
- 44 – The robbers who were crucified with Jesus join in the mockery. Even the lowest of the low seek someone who is lower than themselves. Only Luke (23:39-43) tells us that one of the criminals later repented.

7

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



8

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- 1st Word – “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

9

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- 2nd Word – “Today you shall be with me in Paradise” – the realm of the blessed dead. (Luke 23:43)

10

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- The 3rd Word: “Woman, here is your son; here is your mother.” (John 19:26-27)
- Tradition says that John took care of Mary the rest of her life.

11

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- The 4th Word: “My God, My God, who have you forsaken me?” (*Eli, eli, lama sabachthani*) (Mt. 27:46; Mk 15:34)
- An Aramaic quote of Ps. 22:1
- Spoken after 6 hours on the cross.

12

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- The 5th Word: "I am thirsty." (John 19:28)
- Matthew and Mark tell us that they gave Jesus something to drink after the 4th Word.
- Wine vinegar – a very cheap wine

13

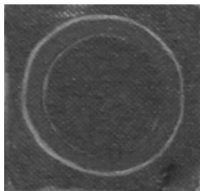
The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- The 6th Word: "It is finished (accomplished). – John 19:30
- One word in Greek: "tetelestai"
- The payment for sin had been accomplished.

14

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55



- The 7th Word – "Father into Your hands I commend my Spirit." (Luke 23:46)

15

The Crucifixion – 27:32-55

- 51 – The events following the death of Jesus occur almost simultaneously. Jesus speaks no more. But God speaks loudly!
- The curtain in the temple tears in two.
- An earthquake happens.
- 52 – Tombs are open and many “holy people” came out. Only Matthew records this.
- 54 – Even the Romans were affected, concluding, “Surely He was the Son of God!”
- 55 – The women saw him die. A significant detail!

16

Jesus’ Burial – 27:57-66



- Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin, but did not vote for Jesus’ death.
- A rock-hewn tomb was expensive – usually a place for the burial of an entire family.
- The body was buried hastily because of the Sabbath.
- The women saw where and how Jesus was buried!

17

Jesus’ Burial – 27:57-66

- 62 – On Saturday morning, the Sanhedrin makes a request of Pilate to guard the tomb.
- 63 – They were afraid that the disciples would steal the body.
- 65 – Pilate grants their request.
- 66 – The tomb is sealed and a guard posted.
- The state is set for Sunday morning. The enemies of Jesus had made it impossible for Jesus to get out of the tomb except by His resurrection!

18