

Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 26:36–28:10; John 18:1–20:18

Jesus came with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane (geth SEM uh nih). He prayed to God, “Father! If it is possible, take this suffering away from Me. But only if it is part of Your plan.” While Jesus prayed, the disciples fell asleep. Jesus said, “Get up. It is almost time.”

Suddenly Judas arrived with a large crowd. Judas kissed Jesus so the crowd would know who Jesus was. The crowd arrested Jesus. Peter tried to stop the men, but Jesus told Peter not to. Jesus' followers ran away, but Peter stayed nearby. Three times, people asked Peter if he was a follower of Jesus. Peter said he was not.

The crowd took Jesus to the high priest. The high priest asked, “Are You the Messiah, the Son of God?”

Jesus replied, “Yes, that's right.”

The high priest said, “He has spoken against God. He deserves to die!” The religious leaders did not want to believe Jesus is God's Son.

When morning came, the religious leaders led Jesus to Pilate, the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?” Pilate asked. “Yes, that's right,” Jesus replied. Pilate asked the crowd what he should do. “Crucify Him!” they said.

Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, but he handed Jesus over and said, “Do whatever you want.”

The governor's soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus. They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. Then they mocked Him, “Here is the King of the Jews!” Then they beat Him and led Him away to be killed.

The soldiers nailed Jesus to a cross. They put a sign above His head that said, **THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS**. Two criminals were crucified next to Him.

Darkness covered the land. Then Jesus cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” Jesus shouted again and then He died. Suddenly, the curtain in the temple sanctuary split in two, from top to bottom, and there was an earthquake. One of the men guarding Jesus' body said, “This man really was God's Son!”

Jesus was buried in a tomb. A stone was sealed in front of the tomb so that no one could steal Jesus' body.

On the third day, Mary Magdalene (MAG duh leen) and the other Mary went to the tomb. Suddenly there was an earthquake. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat

on it. The angel spoke to the women, “Don’t be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, but He is not here. He has been resurrected, just like He said He would.” The women left the tomb quickly. They ran to tell the disciples the good news. Just then Jesus met them.

The women worshiped Jesus. “Don’t be afraid,” He told them. “Go tell My disciples to meet Me in Galilee. They will see Me there.”

Christ Connection: The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus is the center of the gospel. We deserve to die because of our sin, but Jesus died in our place. He was the blood sacrifice made once and for all for the forgiveness of sin. God was pleased with Jesus’ sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. We are forgiven only through Jesus. (Acts 4:12)