

43. The Crucifixion

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

43. The Crucifixion

- a) The Lord could have called for thousands of angels to “save Him,” but He knew He had to let it happen so everyone would see that He was innocent, and more so everyone would see that He could rise from the dead.
- b) Pontius Pilate was the Roman ruler. He didn’t want to condemn Jesus to death. But he was a weak man, wanting to keep his power, and afraid of the Jews. So, he pretended to be innocent of letting Jesus be crucified, even though he could have stopped it.
- c) You might note that the soldiers put robbers on either side of the Lord to make it seem that He was so bad.
- d) Note the darkness, right in the middle of the day.
- e) The veil of the temple was between the most holy place, where the ark used to be, and the holy place where priests like Zacharias would burn incense. Only one person was ever supposed to go into the most holy place—the High Priest—and only once a year. So, the tearing of this veil must have made everyone afraid that such a holy thing was torn down. Tearing the veil stands for the end of that religion at that time, which was led by wicked people who wanted to kill the Lord.
- f) Joseph of Arimathea was a good man, secretly believing in the Lord, even though he was on the leading council of the Jews. He was therefore very powerful, and he was

“waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God” (Mark 15:43). The Jews would have left the Lord’s body hanging on the cross, which was a sign of His being unworthy of burial. But Joseph wanted to give the Lord’s body a respectful burial, and his own tomb was a fine one, cut out of rock. Remember the great stone rolled in front of its entrance.

- g) Note that Joseph of Arimathea was brave. When everyone else was wanting to kill the Lord, he went and got permission to take His body and bury it with respect. (There are many “urban legends” about Joseph through the ages, such as that he was imprisoned for burying Jesus, but the risen Lord set him free.)
- h) Who could roll such a rock away? An angel from heaven had the strength to do it all by himself. The angel must have looked quite amazing. He had a face full of light, and his clothes were white as snow. Think what the women thought when they saw him sitting on top of the rock. He told them that the Lord

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The Lord Lets the People Kill Him

The next morning they took Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse Him. But Pilate asked Jesus saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And Jesus answered him, “You have said it.” Then Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people and said to them, “You have brought this Man to me. Look, I have examined Him and have found no guilt in Him.” But they cried out saying, “Crucify Him. Crucify Him.”

And they took Him to a place called Calvary where they crucified Him with a robber on the right hand side of Him and another robber on the left. And they wrote a saying above Him on the cross in Greek and Latin and Hebrew that said, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, and the sun was darkened. Then the veil of the temple was ripped in half. And crying out with a loud voice, Jesus breathed His last breath.

And there was a good and rich man named Joseph, who was one of the Lord’s disciples. He went to Pilate and begged for the body of Jesus. Then, when he had taken down the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb which he had cut out of the rock. And he rolled a great stone in front of the door of the sepulcher.

Luke 23, Matthew 27

