

(Luke 23:32-56)

Jesus is sentenced to death following an unjust trial. He endures a torturous death. Yet even when He is hung on the cross dying, He is interested in those around Him who want to know more about His Kingdom. It looks as if the Promised King is dead ...

Introduction

Jesus had been arrested, beaten and tortured. He endured an unjust trial, and was finally sentenced to death.

The crucifixion

Jesus and two criminals are led to a place called The Skull.

They are nailed to a cross. The crowds and leaders mocked Jesus. "If you're the Promised King, save Yourself."



The criminal forgiven

One criminal scoffs. One criminal says, "We deserve to die, but Jesus is innocent." He asks Jesus,



"Remember me when You come back with power to rule." Jesus tells him, "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

Jesus dies

At noon, darkness comes. Jesus shouts, "It is finished!" and He dies. The Roman officer realises that Jesus is



innocent. Jesus' friends, including the women, stand at a distance watching.

Jesus is buried

A good religious leader asks for Jesus' body. He takes Him down, wraps Him in cloth, and lays Him in a tomb carved out of a rock.

The women watch

The women followers follow and watch where Jesus is buried. A huge stone is rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb. The women went home to make up spices to prepare Jesus' body for burial, but the religious day of rest had begun. So they had to wait until Sunday, when the day of rest was finished.



Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. Psalm 22 talks about the righteous who are oppressed by their enemy with no help in sight. However, at the end of the Psalm it is clear again that God is the King of the entire world, and that His righteousness will be made known. Jesus references this Psalm as He is on the cross. Read through the psalm and think about the things that Jesus endured. In your suffering, you may find it difficult to see victory at the end. Meditate on Psalm 22:22-31. How did the psalmist's victory come about?
2. Jesus cried, "It is finished" before He died. He had finished the work God gave Him to do – the work of rescuing us from the punishment for our sins. Meditate on that fact – it's already been done for you! Thank Jesus for what He did for you on the cross.
3. Imagine what the good religious leader and what Jesus' followers were going through immediately after He died. He hadn't met their expectations. Yet, they continued on with the preparations for burying Him properly. What expectations of yours have not been fulfilled? In that, have you continued on with doing what you need to do? Ask God for help, and remember that you don't yet know how it will all end!

Meditate on the following passages:

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- 2 Corinthians 5:21