

GOOD FRIDAY

{April 10, 2020 A.D.}



Matthew 26:36-27:61

Mark 14:32-16:1

Luke 22:39-23:56

John 18:1-19:42

When He had finished praying, Jesus went out as usual, crossing the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives, with His disciples to an olive grove called Gethsemane (Now Judas, who betrayed Him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples.), and He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray. Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

He took Peter and James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled.

Then He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed. "Abba, Father," He said, "everything is possible for you. My Father, if it is possible, may this hour pass from me, and this cup be taken from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping, exhausted from sorrow. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" He asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. **They did not know what to say to Him.**

So He left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then He returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? **Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!**"

While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. Judas came to the grove, guiding a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, carrying torches, lanterns and weapons, along with a detachment of soldiers and some officials sent from the chief priests, **the teachers of the law**, and the elders of the people.

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him and lead Him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, replied, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? Friend, do what you came for."

Jesus asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again He asked them, "Who is it you want?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." "I told you that I am he," Jesus answered, "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." This happened so that the words He had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him.

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" With that, Simon Peter, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus commanded Peter, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way? Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me? No more of this!" And He touched the man's ear and healed him.

At that time Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for Him, and the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat with you in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this is your hour-- when darkness reigns." And this has all taken place because the writings of the prophets must be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound Him and brought Him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby struck Him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did

you strike me?" Then Annas sent Him, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest.

So they took Jesus to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest (Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.), and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together.

Simon Peter (at a distance) and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." Peter denied it.

It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself. There he sat with the guards, in the middle of the courtyard, and warmed himself at the fire, to see the outcome.

As Simon Peter stood warming himself, a servant girl of the high priest came to him. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him in the firelight. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus of Galilee," she said. "You are not one of his disciples, are you? This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." She said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." He denied it again, with an oath, saying, "I am not. I don't know the man! I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said. At that moment a rooster began to crow.

About an hour later, one of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean, your accent gives you away."

Then Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man **you're talking about!**" Immediately a rooster crowed **the second time.**

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows **twice**, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward, **their statements did not agree.** Finally two came forward **and gave this false testimony against Him:** "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" **'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'** Yet even then **their testimony did not agree.** Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent.

Again the high priest said to Him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God, **Son of the Blessed One** " Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. **"Yes, I am," said Jesus,** "it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." **They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"** He replied, "You are right in saying I am."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, **"Why do we need any more witnesses?** He has spoken blasphemy! Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. Then they spit in His face, **they blindfolded Him,** and struck Him with their fists. Others slapped Him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" **And the guards took Him and beat Him.** **And they said many other insulting things to Him.**

By now it was very early in the morning, all the chief priests, the elders of the people, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound Him, led Him away from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor. To avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them.

When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on Him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Pilate asked the chief priests, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death He was going to die would be fulfilled.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, who stood before the governor, and Pilate asked Him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "Yes, it is as you say. You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked.

With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

And the chief priests began to accuse Him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders of many things, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked Him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you? Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of." But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge-- to the great amazement of the governor.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by His teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see Him. From what he had heard about Him, he hoped to see Him perform some miracle. He plied Him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing Him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him. Dressing Him in an elegant robe, they sent Him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends-- before this they had been enemies.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the

people to rebellion. I have examined Him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against Him. Neither has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; as you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish Him and then release Him."

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas **with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising**. So when the crowd had gathered **and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did**, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ, **king of the Jews?**" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ, **with the one you call the king of the Jews?**" Pilate asked. They all **shouted**, "Crucify Him!" "Why? What crime has He committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify Him!" **With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"** Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have Him punished and then release Him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that He be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, **wanting to satisfy the crowd**, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!"

Pilate then released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him. The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again. **Falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him.** After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Then they led Him away to crucify Him. Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then 'they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' ' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed.

They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with myrrh; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others-- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did. **Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.**

It was the third hour when they crucified Him.

They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked Him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let **this Christ** come down now from the cross, and we will **see and** believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

In the same way the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land, for the sun stopped shining.

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"-- which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, " Listen, He's calling Elijah."

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. So they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

When He had received the drink, Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, "It is finished. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." With that, He bowed His head, breathed His last and gave up His spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God!" When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath).

Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

As evening approached, there came a rich man from the Judean town of Arimathea, named Joseph, a prominent member of the Council, a good and upright man who had not consented to their decision and action, waiting for the kingdom of God, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Going to Pilate, he boldly asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, Pilate ordered that the body be given to Joseph. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.

So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and they placed it in Joseph's own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were sitting there opposite the tomb. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.