

Luke 23

- I. 23:1-12 Jesus before Pilate and Herod
- II. 23:13-25 Before Pilate Once Again
- III. 23:26-43 Christ Crucified
- IV. 23:44-49 The Death of Christ
- V. 23:50-56 The Burial of Christ

I. 23:1-12 Jesus before Pilate and Then Herod

- A. 23:1 *the whole multitude* Jesus first appeared before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council. It consisted of 70 members with the high priest being the president and the 71st. They had just found Him guilty of blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God.
- B. 23:2 *forbidding to pay taxes* Jesus never forbid anyone to pay taxes, but He was accused of it anyway. They probably said this because they were speaking to Pilate, the Roman governor, and were trying to get on his good side.
- C. 23:9 *He answered him nothing* The Jewish Council and Pilate at least got some kind of answers out of Jesus. Herod gets total silence. It's possible for a person to sink so low that the Lord refuses to speak to him or her at all. That's pretty low.
- D. 23:12 Their friendship started here? That tells us a lot about these men.

II. 23:13-25 Before Pilate Once Again

- A. 23:15 *nothing deserving of death* This is an amazing admission! Both Pilate and Herod acknowledged that Jesus didn't do anything wrong.

III. 23:26-43 Christ Crucified

- A. 23:26 *Simon* Mark (15:21) mentions the names of Simon's sons, Alexander and Rufus. They were known to the early church by name – so were probably believers.
- B. 23:28 *weep for ... your children* Jerusalem would be completely destroyed in less than 40 years by the Romans – not one Jewish person left alive within the city.
- C. 23:34 *And they divided His garments and cast lots* See Psalm 22:18. That whole Psalm contains much about the crucifixion. It was written by David 1000 years B.C.
- D. 23:38 *Greek, Latin, Hebrew*
 - i. **Greek** was the language of trade. **Latin** was the language of the Romans. **Hebrew** was the language of the Jews.

ii. From the day it happened God intended Christ's crucifixion to be understood by the world. The God of Israel was now taking His rightful place as the God of all nations.

E. 23:41 *nothing wrong* Even the criminals knew that Jesus was innocent.

F. 23:43 *with Me in paradise* Jesus was dying, but He encouraged the man dying next to Him. No doubt for Jesus this was a taste of that “joy set before Him” for which He endured the cross. It was for the eternal soul of this thief – and of you and of me – that Christ died.

IV. 23:44-49 The Death of Christ

A. 23:45 The *veil of the temple* covered the entrance to the Most Holy Place, the Holy of Holies. No one was allowed there except the high priest and that only once a year – after various sacrifices and ritual washings. At the death of Christ the veil was torn open, implying that now we have free access to the very presence of God.

Hebrews 6:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, ²⁰where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus...

B. 23:47 That's not all the centurion said, Mark records something more:

Mark 15:39 (NKJV) So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”

V. 23:50-56 The Burial of Christ

A. 23:56 *they rested on the Sabbath* Jesus died just before a Sabbath. If the disciples wanted to do anything special, they were forbidden.

i. They couldn't run far away – no excessive travel

ii. They couldn't go move the big stone and mess with the body – besides that, there were all those guards.

iii. All they could do was rest and wait upon God. That's right where the Lord wanted them. The Lord was about to do something remarkable and He didn't want their help.

The cross has become the symbol of the Christian faith – and there's good reason for that:

1 John 3:16 (NKJV) By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us...

It's the cross that teaches us the extent of Christ's love. The cross is not something that just happened to Jesus. He was in control the whole time, obediently going to His death because He knew what the result of that death would be.

As Christians we should think much about the cross, because Jesus intentionally endured that cross to save our souls.

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NKJV)

*¹Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

*³For **consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.** ⁴You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

When a friend has betrayed you	Consider Jesus going to the cross for you
When a friend has forsaken you	“ “ “ “
When you are misunderstood	“ “ “ “
When you are treated unfairly	“ “ “ “
When you are falsely accused	“ “ “ “
When you wonder if anyone really loves you	“ “ “ “
When you have sinned and need forgiveness	“ “ “ “

Romans 5:6-11 (NKJV)

*For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. **And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.***