

# Lesson 7

## The Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ

Matthew 27:32-66, Mark 15:21-47, Luke 23:26-56 and John 19:16-42

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

*“Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”*

*Isaiah 53:4*

Read Matthew 27:32-66, Mark 15:21-47, Luke 23:26-56 and John 19:16-42 out loud every day this week.

2. As you read the above verses, what initially strikes you?
3. As you read these passages daily, keep a record of the seven last words (phrases) of Jesus from the cross.

Jesus and two other criminals were led out of the city of Jerusalem to a place called *Golgotha* in Aramaic or *Calvary* in Latin, meaning *place of the skull*. Jesus probably began this journey by carrying His own cross (which weighed about 200 pounds), but because of all He had already endured, He needed help. The Roman guards may have conscripted a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross.

4. Why do you think Jesus refused to drink the wine mixed with gall, a type of sedative?

The Bible does not focus on the physical suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel accounts simply state: “and they crucified Him.” Take a minute to consider what these words mean.

5. As part of Roman law to deter further criminal acts, crucifixions were done on main highways and a written notice was placed there stating the crime that had been committed. What did Pilate have written, and why did the Jewish authorities object?
6. Read Psalm 22:16-18, which was written some 1,000 years before the cross. Do you think the Roman soldiers were trying to fulfill Scripture by their actions? Discuss.
7. Record the different groups of people who mocked Jesus on the cross and what they said.
8. Read Psalm 22:8. Do you think the chief priests and elders were trying to fulfill Scripture? Discuss.
9. Consider the exchange between the thief on the cross and Jesus in Luke 23:39-43. From this passage, what do you learn about the teaching that the way to get to heaven is by “being good enough” or doing enough good works? How does this exchange show the way to heaven? Discuss.
10. From about noon until three o’clock the whole land was covered with darkness. Read Isaiah 13:9-11 and Zephaniah 1:14-18. What do you think darkness symbolizes? Discuss this in the context of these three hours on the cross.
11. Much has been written about the words of Jesus, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” In essence, what do you think Jesus meant?
12. In spite of the supernatural darkness over the land, what was the attitude of the crowd at the cross?

13. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "It is finished"?
  
14. Do you think Jesus died of His own will? Discuss.
  
15. Read Exodus 26:31-35, which describes the veil of the Tabernacle, the building that preceded the Temple. What was the purpose of the veil? Also see Hebrews 9:2-7.
  
16. What do you think was the significance of the veil of the Temple splitting from top to bottom at the moment of Jesus' death? See Hebrews 10:19-22.
  
17. What else happened just as Jesus died? Discuss.
  
18. Record the details of the reaction of the centurion to the death of Jesus from Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39 and Luke 23:47. Discuss what you learn.
  
19. Consider and discuss the responses of the others at the foot of the cross from Matthew 27:55-56, Mark 15:40-41 and Luke 23:48-49.
  
20. Do you think the Roman soldiers were trying to fulfill Scriptures when they did not break Jesus' legs and pierced His side? See John 19:31-37, Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20 and Zechariah 12:10. Discuss.
  
21. Discuss all you learn about Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus from Matthew 27:57-61, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56 and John 19:38-42. See also John 3:1-12.

22. Look back at your answer to question 4. Which of the seven last words of Christ is particularly meaningful to you and why?
  
23. From Matthew 27:62-66, it seems the chief priests and Pharisees were the only ones who remembered Christ's claims that He would rise again. What did they do to secure His body? What is your response as you consider the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ?
  
24. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?

## Lecture Notes: