

## **What does Jesus' journey to the cross reveal about WHO GOD IS?**

## **What does Jesus' journey to the cross reveal about WHO WE ARE?**

**John 13:1-17-** *Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. <sup>2</sup> It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. <sup>4</sup> So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, <sup>5</sup> and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." <sup>8</sup> "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? <sup>13</sup> You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. <sup>14</sup> And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.*

**Matthew 26:31-56-** *On the way, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there." <sup>33</sup> Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me." <sup>35</sup> "No!" Peter insisted. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the other disciples vowed the same.*

<sup>36</sup> *Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. <sup>38</sup> He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." <sup>39</sup> He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." <sup>40</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? <sup>41</sup> Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" <sup>42</sup> Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." <sup>43</sup> When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. <sup>44</sup> So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. <sup>45</sup> Then he came to the disciples and said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"*

<sup>47</sup> And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss.” <sup>49</sup> So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.” Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear. <sup>52</sup> “Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Don’t you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? <sup>54</sup> But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?” <sup>55</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. <sup>56</sup> But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures.” At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**Matthew 26:57-75-** <sup>57</sup> Then the people who had arrested Jesus led him to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of religious law and the elders had gathered. <sup>58</sup> Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance and came to the high priest’s courtyard. He went in and sat with the guards and waited to see how it would all end. <sup>59</sup> Inside, the leading priests and the entire high council were trying to find witnesses who would lie about Jesus, so they could put him to death. <sup>60</sup> But even though they found many who agreed to give false witness, they could not use anyone’s testimony. Finally, two men came forward <sup>61</sup> who declared, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” <sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Well, aren’t you going to answer these charges? What do you have to say for yourself?” <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I demand in the name of the living God—tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” <sup>64</sup> Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.” <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothing to show his horror and said, “Blasphemy! Why do we need other witnesses? You have all heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your verdict?” “Guilty!” they shouted. “He deserves to die!” <sup>67</sup> Then they began to spit in Jesus’ face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> jeering, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?”

<sup>69</sup> Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, “You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.” <sup>70</sup> But Peter denied it in front of everyone. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. <sup>71</sup> Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup> Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. “I don’t even know the man,” he said. <sup>73</sup> A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.” <sup>74</sup> Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know the man!” And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.” And he went away, weeping bitterly.

**John 18:28-19:16-**<sup>28</sup> Jesus' trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn't go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn't be allowed to celebrate the Passover.<sup>29</sup> So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, "What is your charge against this man?"<sup>30</sup> "We wouldn't have handed him over to you if he weren't a criminal!" they retorted.<sup>31</sup> "Then take him away and judge him by your own law," Pilate told them. "Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone," the Jewish leaders replied.<sup>32</sup> (This fulfilled Jesus' prediction about the way he would die.)<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him.<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."<sup>37</sup> Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."<sup>38</sup> "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime."<sup>39</sup> But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this 'King of the Jews'?"<sup>40</sup> But they shouted back, "No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!" (Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip.<sup>2</sup> The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him.<sup>3</sup> "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.<sup>4</sup> Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty."<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"<sup>6</sup> When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" "Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty."<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God."<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever.<sup>9</sup> He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.<sup>10</sup> "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?"<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."<sup>12</sup> Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, "If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.' Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar."<sup>13</sup> When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, Gabbatha).<sup>14</sup> It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, "Look, here is your king!"<sup>15</sup> "Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him! Crucify him!" "What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests shouted back.<sup>16</sup> Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.... So they took Jesus away.

**Matthew 27:27-44-** <sup>27</sup> Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. <sup>29</sup> They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. <sup>31</sup> When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

<sup>32</sup> Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. <sup>33</sup> And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). <sup>34</sup> The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup> After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there. <sup>37</sup> A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup> Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. <sup>40</sup> "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!" <sup>41</sup> The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. <sup>42</sup> "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him!" <sup>43</sup> He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, "I am the Son of God." <sup>44</sup> Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

**Luke 23:32-43-** <sup>32</sup> Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. <sup>33</sup> When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. <sup>35</sup> The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." <sup>36</sup> The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. <sup>37</sup> They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> A sign was fastened above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die?" <sup>41</sup> We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**John 19:28-37-**<sup>28</sup> Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, “I am thirsty.”<sup>29</sup> A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had tasted it, he said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.<sup>31</sup> It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down.<sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus.<sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn’t break his legs.<sup>34</sup> One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out.<sup>35</sup> (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe.)<sup>36</sup> These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,”<sup>37</sup> and “They will look on the one they pierced.”

**Matthew 27:51-61-**<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,<sup>52</sup> and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead.<sup>53</sup> They left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.<sup>54</sup> The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, “This man truly was the Son of God!”<sup>55</sup> And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance.<sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup> As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who had become a follower of Jesus,<sup>58</sup> went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him.<sup>59</sup> Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long sheet of clean linen cloth.<sup>60</sup> He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance and left.<sup>61</sup> Both Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting across from the tomb and watching.

**Mark 14:22-25-**<sup>22</sup> As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take it, for this is my body.”<sup>23</sup> And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many.<sup>25</sup> I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.”