



## The Gospel According To MATTHEW

### Matthew Ch. 27

## “The Court, The Crown, & The Cross!”

### > (v1-26) The Court!

(v1-2) The religious leaders “*plotted against Jesus*” and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor, the fifth Roman procurator of Judea, ruling from A.D. 26-36. The Jews could not execute a person without approval from the Roman authorities (John 18:31), the Jewish leaders brought Jesus to Pilate to pronounce the death sentence (Mark 14:64). Pilate seemed convinced that Jesus was not guilty of anything deserving death, and he sought to release Jesus (Matt 27:24; Mark 15:9-11; Luke 23:14; John 18:38-40; 19:12). Pilate did not want to antagonize the Jews and run the risk of damaging his own reputation and career. Thus, when they insisted on Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate turned Jesus over to be executed (Matt 27:26; Mark 15:12-15; Luke 23:20-25; John 19:15-16).

(v3-10) Judas was “*remorseful*” not repentant. The Greek language here does not reveal a sorrow for sin, which brings forth a change of mind, heart, and action, but rather a regret for being caught, a remorse that leads to despair. Judas had sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave (Ex. 21:32) and in the courtroom of Judas' conscience and soul he declared that Jesus was “*innocent*” (v4). Instead of turning to God for forgiveness he continued in his self-determined way and murdered himself. The religious leaders bought the *potter's field* with the blood money fulfilling Bible prophecy (Jer. 18:1-4; 19:1-3; Zech. 11:12-13). Judas' greedy plot became his burial plot.

(v11-14) There were two legal systems at work which condemned Christ: the Jewish and the Roman, the very two which underlie modern jurisprudence.

- Listen to former attorney and Kansas legislator (1869-1872) C.I. Scofield, who later converted to Christianity and became a Pastor and respected theologian, as he explains the illegal acts committed by both courts of law.

“The Jewish trial was illegal in several particulars:

- (1) The judge was not impartial and did not protect the accused. There is no evidence that the quorum of twenty-three judges was present; the judges took part in the arrest; and they were hostile (Mt. 26:62-63).
- (2) The arrest was unlawful because it was carried out under no formal accusation.
- (3) In criminal trials all sessions had to be started and carried on only during the day. Night sessions were illegal.
- (4) A verdict of guilty could not be rendered on the same day as the conclusion of the trial. It had to be given on the next day.
- (5) The search for hostile testimony was illegal (Mt. 26:59; Mk. 14:56; Jn 11:53).
- (6) No accused could be convicted on his own evidence, yet they sought replies and admissions from Christ to condemn Him (Mt. 26:63-66; Jn. 18:19).
- (7) And no valid legal evidence was presented against Him.

After Pilate declared Christ innocent (Mt. 27:24), his subsequent acts were all contrary to the letter and spirit of Roman law.”

(v15-17) Who's Barabbas? He was a "robber" (John 18:40) and had been imprisoned for “insurrection and murder” (Luke 23:19,25; Mark 15:7).

**(v18) Notice the hideous grip and power of the sin of ENVY?**

- ENVY is a feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his possessions or good qualities. These religious leaders were full of ENVY thus crucified the Son of God.

- James exhorts us in Ch. 3:14-18, *“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”* Christians are also warned to guard against the sin of envy in Rom 13:13; 1 Peter 2:1.

**(v19-24) Here lies the culmination of Pilate’s character -** We see Pilate as a good example of the unprincipled achiever who will sacrifice what is right to accomplish his own selfish goals. Although he recognized Jesus' innocence and had the authority to uphold justice and acquit Jesus, he gave in to the demands of the crowd rather than risk a personal setback in his career. This is a real temptation to all people who hold positions of power and authority. Legends are confused as to how Pilate ultimately died. Eusebius, a historian, reports that he was exiled to the city of Vienne on the Rhone in Gaul (France) where he eventually committed suicide.

**(v25) The Jews said, “His blood be on us and on our children,”** truly this statement has been fulfilled throughout Jewish history as God’s hand of blessing and protection has been removed from them. The Jewish people have faced tremendous persecution and death throughout their generations as they continue to reject Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Jesus warned of this in Matthew 23:29-39.

**(v26) What does it mean to be scourged?** Scourging was a Roman practice for severe bodily punishment. The implement used for scourging consisted of a handle, to which several cords or leather were affixed, which were weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, to make the blow more painful and effective. The victim was tied to a post and the blows were applied to the back and loins, sometimes even, in the wanton cruelty of the executioner, to the face and the bowels. By its application secrets and confessions were wrung from the victim (Acts 22:24-25). It usually preceded capital punishment. In case a man was sentenced to stripes the judge was to confine the number to forty, i.e., to forty at most, lest *“your brother be degraded in your eyes”* (Deut 25:1-3). So hideous was the punishment that the victim usually fainted or died. In his prediction of the coming Messiah, Isaiah (approx. 712 B.C.) declared, *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.* (Is. 53:5)

### > **(v27-31) The Crown!**

**(v27-31) The curse of the earth was placed upon the holy Savior’s head** (Gen 3:17-18 - *“Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you”*). **Isaiah told the future of the suffering Messiah in Ch. 50:6** – *“I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”*

### > **(v32-66) The Cross!**

**(v32-50) The order of events at the crucifixion:**

**(1) The arrival at Golgotha** (v33; Mk. 15:22; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:17).

- (2) The offer of the stupefying drink is refused (v34; Mk. 15:23).
- (3) Jesus is crucified between two robbers (v35-38; Mk. 15:24-28; Lk. 23:33-38; Jn. 19:18).
- (4) He utters the first cry from the cross, **“Father, forgive,”** etc. (Lk. 23:34).
- (5) The soldiers divide His garments (v35; Mk. 15:24; Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:23).
- (6) The Jews mock Jesus (v39-43; Mk. 15:29-32; Lk. 23:35).
- (7) The robbers revile Him, but one repents and believes (v44; Mk. 15:32; Lk. 23:39-43).
- (8) The second cry from the cross, **“Today you will be with Me,”** etc. (Lk. 23:43).
- (9) The third cry, **“Woman behold your son,”** etc. (v46-47; Mk. 15:34-36).
- (10) The darkness (v45; Mk. 15:33; Lk. 23:44).
- (11) The fourth cry, “My God,” etc. (v46-47; Mk. 15:34-36).
- (12) The fifth cry, **“I thirst!”** fulfilling Psalm 69:21 (Jn. 19:28).
- (13) The sixth cry, **“It is finished!”** (Jn. 19:30).
- (14) The seventh cry, **“Father, into Your hands,”** etc. (Lk. 23:46).
- (15) And our Lord dismisses His spirit (v50; Mk. 15:37; Lk. 23:46; Jn. 19:30).

**> AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WE FIND:**

- **LOVE** – **John 3:16-17** - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- **OBEDIENCE** – **Phil 2:8** - *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

- **JOY** - **Heb 12:2** - *looking 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.*

- **RECONCILIATION** - **2 Cor 5:19** - *that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

- **PEACE** - **Eph 2:16** - *For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.*

- **FORGIVENESS** - **Col 2:13-14** - *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

- **LIFE** - **Gal 2:20** - *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

- **POWER** - **1 Cor 1:18-19** - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

(v51-56) Here we see three incredible miracles: First, the veil of the temple was split from top to bottom. The rending of the veil symbolizes the way to God is now open to all through Jesus Christ, there's no need for the temple, priests, altars, or sacrifices (Heb. 10:14-26). Second, an earthquake occurred and the rocks were split, in Rom 8:20-23 we read, *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also*

*will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (3) Old Testament saints resurrecting from the graves and going into the holy city. The centurion proclaimed the greatest truth of all, **“TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD!”***

**(v57-66) Jesus is buried by friends and guarded by enemies. Yes, in three days HE WILL RISE!** And all God’s people say, **AMEN!**

**- Someone once said,**

**“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.**

**If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.**

**If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.**

**If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.**

**But our greatest need was FORGIVENESS, so God sent us a SAVIOR!”**