

The Cross

This study demonstrates how much God loves us
and that the cross must elicit a personal response.

Colossians 1:13-14, 21-23

- Jesus' died on the cross to forgive us of our sins, rescue us from the pain and penalty of darkness, and bring us into the wonderful light of his Kingdom.
- This should be our greatest motivation to get right with God and become true disciples of Jesus.

Matthew 26:36-46

- Jesus is sorrowful & troubled. Why?
 - Jesus is human and getting ready to die is very hard for him.
 - Refer: Luke 22:44 – Jesus is stressed enough to sweat blood.
- Why did Jesus go back three times to pray?
 - He prayed until he submitted to God's will.
 - Are you willing to do the same thing to get your heart where it needs to be?

Matthew 26:47-56

- Jesus submits to his arrest and goes willingly. Why did Jesus do this?
 - Jesus could have stopped it all, but he wanted to die for our sins (refer: Hebrews 12:2).
 - Vs. 53 = He could have called on 72,000 angels to end it. (1 legion = 6,000)

Matthew 26:57-68

- Everyone lies about Jesus.
 - How many lies would you sit through before you retaliated?
 - Why did Jesus remain silent? [He knew he needed to die for your sins.]
 - Verse 67: The physical violence and abuse begins. - How would it feel to have people spit in your face?

Matthew 26:69-75 & 27:1-5

- How did Peter respond to his sin against Jesus? [He wept bitterly; He repented; (the book of Acts shows this)]
- How did Judas respond to his sin against Jesus? [Instead of repenting, he ran away & quit, committing suicide.... Why?]

Matthew 27:11-26 & 27:27-31

- Before the governor, usually the time to beg for mercy.
 - Jesus did not defend himself. Why did he remain silent?
 - He knew he must die for your sins.
- How did Pilate respond to Jesus?
 - He washed his hands and took no responsibility for it.
 - Pilate cared more about what people thought than doing the right thing.
- But Pilate was responsible; and so is every sinner.
- Verse 26: What is a flogging? Severe & deadly whipping (lead balls on the whip)
 - Verses 27-31: All the abuse: Why did Jesus not stop it all now? [His love for you and me.]

Matthew 27:32-50

- Why not come down from the cross and prove everyone wrong? (His love for you and me.)
- Verse 45: God brings total darkness to the land.
- Verse 46: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 - Jesus takes on your sin & feels separation from his Father. (Refer: 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Questions:

What is God's response to your sin? Why? (His love.)

What is your response to all of this?

How does it make you feel?

Does it motivate you to want to give your life to Jesus and love him in return? (Refer: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Additional Study: Isaiah 53:1-12, John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8, 1 John 4:9-12

Resources: *The Crucifixion of Jesus* (Medical Account), *The Passion* movie, *The Cross* (DPI)