

Chapter Twenty Seven

The Crucifixion

I. Introduction

- A. This is _____ chapter of Matthew.
- B. This chapter is why Matthew started to pen this Gospel.
- C. He didn't start writing this Gospel to simply tell about the birth of Jesus, or the wise men, or about Herod, or about all the wonderful teachings of Jesus
- D. But to tell about the victorious crucifixion of such a God-Man as Jesus!
- E. Here is THE most impressive description of the wrath of almighty God against sin, the justice of God, the love of God in providing _____ the lamb, and the power of God to finish what He starts!
- F. Let's take our time to parse through the depths of the wisdom and love of God shown in the life and death of Jesus, the Christ!

II. Lesson - The Crucifixion (26:1 – 75)

A. A “_____” is Presented to Pilate (27:1,2)

1. Pontius Pilate
 - a. _____ of Judaea from 26-36 AD
 - b. Believed to be “mythical” until in 1961 an inscription with his name was found, known as the Pilate Stone, confirming his historicity as a Prefect and adding to the credence of the Biblical accounts
2. The Jewish religious leaders delivered its victims to the “state” for execution, just as the Roman Catholic Church did for the next 1,500 years!!!
3. The Sanhedren leaders wake up Pilate (Jn 18:28-32) to get him to hurriedly execute Jesus before anyone knows about it
4. They over all standards of justice by presenting him as already condemned and in no need of cross-examination “*If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.*”

B. Judas Hangs Himself (27:3-10)

1. The narrative changes and follows the last struggles of Judas with reason and sanity
2. Judas is _____ fully the antichrist yet – not like he will be when he is resurrected
3. He still had _____, and the ability to exhibit remorse and sorrow for his actions
4. But sorrow for sins never saves anyone _____ sin (2Cor 7:10)
5. Judas _____!
 - a. Went back to the religious leaders and confessed HIS wrong doing
 - b. Actually returned the betrayal money
 - c. Admitted _____ had sinned, and that Jesus was innocent of everything that was now happening to Him
 - d. All of that is part of repentance except one missing ingredient – he never repents TOWARDS God (Acts 20:21)
6. The priests _____ his repentance – they believed there are some sins that CAN'T be forgiven!
7. He threw down the money at their feet and ran out
8. Ended up hanging himself – just before sunrise (27:5; Acts 1:15-20)
 - a. Judas literally was part of the 12 – had such a good place
 - b. Tried to hang himself off a cliff, over a potter's field
 - c. The rope evidently broke
 - d. He fell straight to the bottom, and his bowels gushed out
 - e. His sin purchased a graveyard – aceldama – the field of blood
 - f. His family line became _____ – just as the antichrist
 - g. The fulfilment of Prophecy – Jeremiah evidently was known for _____ Zechariah 11:12,13

9. Peter knew Judas needed to be _____ (Acts 1:20), but just not by Mattias – by SAUL of Tarsus instead! God has a great sense of humour!

C. Jesus is Tried by Pilate (27:11-16)

1. Interigation
 - a. Accusation – Are you a _____?
 - b. It was a crime to try to be a king when Caesar was the only king
 - c. Jesus then interrigates the judge!!! *“Did you figure that out, or did someone tell you?”*
2. Accusation
 - a. Are you the very Son of God?
 - b. There were loads of accusations – but you cannot convict someone because of accusations (the Catholic Church did though)
 - c. Pilate heard NO evidence against this Jesus
 - d. AND, Jesus stayed silent the entire time – never defended Himself like others would
 - e. Even Pilate is impressed with Jesus’ _____
3. Frustration
 - a. There was no evidence against Jesus
 - b. Knew that the Jewish leaders just simply _____ Jesus (27:18)
 - c. YET, Pilate HAD to work WITH the Sanhedren to keep the peace – scratch my back I’ll scratch YOURS

D. Jesus is Condemned by the _____ (27:17-23)

1. So, Pilate comes up with a compromise
 - a. He HAD to free a prisoner to act like he was benevolent
 - b. Decided to offer up an extreme, hardened criminal, and put him beside Jesus: _____ (Cf Luke 23:18,19)
 - 1) A murderer
 - 2) Riot leader
 - 3) Danger to society
 - c. Pilate had it all figured out:
 - 1) He believed the people would simply choose to free Jesus
 - 2) The Sanhedren would have to accept the will of the people
 - 3) The Sanhedren would be shown that PILATE is still the boss
 - 4) It would tarnish Jesus’ repuation, making Him STILL a criminal, that just was set free, but was not innocent – the Sanhedren would be happy with at least THAT result
 - 5) Pilate would be able to go back to work!
2. Pilate’s wife tries her best to stop Pilate from having ANYTHING to do with Jesus (27:19) – don’t make ANY judgments against Jesus
 - a. She has been tormented by dreams about what was going on
 - b. She calls Jesus a just, righteous man
3. While Pilate was scheming to win over the Sanhedren, the Pharisees had already predicted what Pilate would do, and were working the crowds into a frenzy to ask for Barabbas!!!
4. Why would the crowds choose Barabbas?
 - a. The Pharisees would simply point to Jesus and say that He is an impostor
 - b. That He has finally been caught and is guilty of blasphemy
 - c. That Pilate has agreed that Jesus is a criminal, and guilty of death
 - d. None of which was true, but it was easy to convince the crowd
 - e. The same can happen to ANYONE! All you have to have are some authorities accusing you, and you being in chains, and under arrest, and most everyone will start to believe that you must be a fraud!

5. Pilate is _____ by the crowd's response to his question
 - a. He asks the people what they think should be done to Jesus called Christ?
 - b. He really didn't think they would call for His execution
 - c. They ALL said "crucify him!"
 - d. Pilate still can't believe his ears – "Why? What evil hath he done?" Pilate had thoroughly examined Jesus and found no fault in Him (Lk 23:14,15)!
 - e. The crowds responds "Crucify Him!" again! No evidence was offered! Just anger!
 - f. It was at that moment that Pilate realized he was beaten, and a riot was about to break out and so gives in to the crowd – _____ rule!

E. So, Who is Responsible for Jesus' Murder (27:24-25)?

1. _____? Pilate tries to wash his hands of the execution, but he was to blame
2. _____? They readily accepted the blame (Cf Luke 23:24,25) and BOY have they as a nation paid the price for murdering the "prince of life" (Acts 3:13-15)
3. _____? They let Jesus down and did NOT defend Him when He needed them
4. Judas? Certainly HE accepted blame (27:4)
5. BUT, it was _____ who willingly surrendered His life into the hands of every one of them (John 10:17,18) and LET them murder Him!
6. We all, every man, woman and child ever born are responsible for Jesus' murder, and yet He accepted death willingly as a substitute for all guilty!

F. Jesus is Crucified (27:26-56)

1. Barabbas is freed from the line-up and set away into the crowd!
 - a. Jesus will die on _____ cross!
 - b. Not only that, but Jesus will have to suffer all the humiliation leading up to the cross!
2. What follows is actually part of the crucifixion, and every event was designed to inflict as much pain and embarrassment possible, always stopping just short of death! Many people died long before they were nailed to their cross!
3. Jesus is then publically scourged by a cat-o-nine tails across His flesh
 - a. It is about _____ – it all begins at the third hour since sunrise (Mk 15:25)
 - b. Jesus is publically stripped and tied to a tall wooden post and anchored so he couldn't move away from the whipping
 - c. A Roman scourging whip was actually several leather strips of variable lengths, in which small iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at intervals
 - d. For scourging, the man was stripped of his clothing, and his hands were tied to an upright post. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged either by two soldiers (lictors) or by one who alternated positions.
 - e. The scourging was intended to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse or death.
 - f. As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and Subcutaneous tissues. Then, as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive on the cross.
4. Jesus is mocked and beaten now by ALL of Pilate's soldiers
 - a. It is now _____
 - b. He is stripped again
 - c. A royal robe is placed upon Him
 - d. And a cruel crown of brachnes with 1-2 inch long thorns shoved hard onto His head
 - e. A strong, yet flexible reed is placed in His hand
 - f. All the soldiers surrounded Jesus and hit Him, and pushed on him
 - g. They kept calling Him "King of the Jews!"
 - h. Dozens of grown filthy soldiers spit huge amounts of spit upon Jesus' face and upper body
 - i. They pulled Jesus' beard and ripped hair from His face (Isa 50:6)
 - j. They beat the long thorns deep into His skull

- k. Jesus stinks, is bleeding all over His face, is severely bruised, and not making a whimper!
 - 1) His hands have already been bruised by the ropes that bound Him tight in the Garden
 - 2) He was hit hard by an officer in Annas' home (John 18:22)
 - 3) He has been beaten and spit upon already by the Sanhedren (Mt 26:67,68)
 - 4) By Herod's soldiers (Luke 23:7-11)
 - 5) And now by Pilate's best soldiers!
 - l. They rip the robe off His whelped back, and place His old clothes on Him
 - m. And then they have had their fun, and now parade Him out to Golgatha to be crucified with two other criminals!
5. A centurian has watched all the above, and has compassion on Jesus and forces a black man to carry Jesus' cross behind Jesus through the crowds
- a. Jesus _____ should have been there to carry His cross!
 - b. NOW we know what Jesus meant when He said, we must carry our cross – embarrassment, walking behind such a mocked and maligned criminal that Jesus is to the world!
6. Jesus arrives at the top of a small ridge just outside the western wall of Jerusalem called Golgotha – the “place of a _____” (27:33)
7. Someone tries to give Jesus just a taste of vinegar wine – the worst wine available, but it offered a little numbing to the pain – Jesus _____ it!
8. And there, those soldiers crucified Jesus (27:35a)!
- a. Such a simple statement - The actual process was incredibly tortuous!
 - b. All predicted 1,000 years earlier (Ps 22:16; Zech 12:10)
 - c. TWO cross beams of heavy wood, notched to set into each other are locked together with rope
 - d. Jesus' back, along with the other two thieves, was placed upon the rough wood of the cross
 - e. His arms were tightly tied down onto the horizontal beam
 - f. And then 6-8 inch nails were slowly painfully driven into each wrist – not palms!
 - g. His feet were set upon each other, and at least one 8 inch iron nail was driven through the upper bone structure of the feet into the main cross pole
 - h. The pain of those nails was absolutely excruciating – it was as if FIRE were raging in the nerves around those piercings! And every motion by the body of the victim only enraged the pain!
 - i. Then, slowly, roughly, Jesus was lifted upright, and the bottom of the cross moved into position over a two foot hole in the ground, and let drop into place in that hole
 - j. And at that moment, every joint in Jesus' body went out of place (Ps 22:14) – because of the tension holding Himself still against all the pain as the cross moved and jerked!
 - k. It is about 11 – 11.30am
 - l. Remember, all of this was done in front of a speechless crowds of thousands who watched
 - m. Jesus looks like raw hamburger mince meat hanging on that cross (Isa 52:13,14)
9. Jesus says _____ phrases on the cross
- a. My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me (Matt 27:46; Mk 15:34; Ps 22:1)
 - b. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do (Lk 23:34)
 - c. Verily, I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise (Lk 23:43)
 - d. Woman, behold thy son...Behold thy mother (Jn 19:26-27)
 - e. I thirst (Jn 19:28)
 - f. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit (Lk 23:46)
 - g. It is finished (Jn 19:30)
 - h. Each one of these phrases would have taken an unbelievable amount of strength to say on the cross! And yet Jesus HAD to speak them!
10. The parting of His garments (27:35-36)
- a. The spoils of war
 - b. The only things Jesus owned was the clothes on His back
 - c. They each got some article of clothing, and then they _____ for the robe
 - d. God had even prophesied this event (Ps 22:18)
 - e. And then they sat down to “_____” like you would a sports match!

11. Jesus' Accusation – Why He was Condemned (27:37; Jn 19:19-22)

- a. Written in _____, and _____, and _____ so everybody could read His crime
 - 1) Mat 27:37 THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
 - 2) Mar 15:26 THE KING OF THE JEWS.
 - 3) Luk 23:38 THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
 - 4) Joh 19:19 JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- b. Altogether, it said, THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS
- c. What a mockery, and yet what a prophecy because He really WAS and IS!

12. The Two Thieves (27:38)

- a. Probably _____ offenders
- b. Firm justice
- c. Made the Roman empire safe
- d. Remember, _____ criminals were supposed to be crucified

13. The Continuing Mockery (27:39-44)

- a. The mocking people
 - 1) Rulers – governing men
 - 2) Chief priests – religious men
 - a) They quoted Jesus' own words that he was the Son of God
 - b) They demanded a miracle to prove that Jesus was their Messiah
 - (i) They had rejected all His other miracles
 - (ii) The greater miracle was Him STAYING on the cross
 - 3) Common men – joined in with the mockery
 - 4) Criminal men – Even both the thieves at first mocked Jesus
- b. The prophecy (27:39,40; Ps 22:8)
 - 1) Facing death, NOW prove you can raise yourself up again!
 - 2) Just give Him time!
- c. The price
 - 1) To save OTHERS, He will have to die
 - 2) The same is true in Christian ministry

14. The Salvation of one Thief (Luke 23:39-43)

15. Darkness Over the Earth (27:45-49)

- a. Dark for three hours - Noon to 3pm
- b. Not world wide darkness – just over all the area
- c. Other times darkness covered an area
 - 1) _____ (Gen 1:2)
 - 2) Abraham's first sacrifice (Gen 15:12)
 - 3) Three days of darkness in Egypt (Ex 10:21,22)
 - 4) It was dark upon the Egyptian chariots at the Red Sea (Ex 14:20)
 - 5) _____ (Ex 20:21; Dt 4:11)
- d. During these three long, tortuous hours, Jesus writhed under the full wrath of almighty God
 - 1) Now Jesus drinks the final cup (Ps 75:8; John 18:11)
 - 2) The wrath of GOD
- e. Not a word was spoken from the cross, or by the crowd – absolute silence (Isa 53:7)
- f. It was then that Jesus reveals that he is suffering _____ right then and there
 - 1) _____ by God and alone (27:46) – quoting Psalm 22:1

- a) Speaks a muffled Hebrew “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”
 - b) Marks quotes it as “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”
 - c) Men thought Jesus was calling for ELIJAH, not for God – because... He cannot be easily understood due to the beating and thirst that he has experienced for the past 18 hours!
- 2) Under the wrath of God, being actively punished by God – never a rest
 - 3) Thirsty for just a drop of water
 - 4) No one is able to help
 - 5) Surrounded by _____ that mock you and curse you constantly

16. Jesus Dies – TRIUMPHANTLY (27:50-56)

- a. He cries out “It is FINISHED!”
- b. He gave up “_____” – the inner man – the soul (Eccl 8:8)
- c. It was no defeat (Col 2:13-15)
- d. Proven by (27:51-53): *all these things did NOT happen at Christ’s death...*
 - 1) The ripping in two of the Temple Veil – from the TOP down
 - 2) An earthquake at His death (27:54) – like as experienced at Mt Sinai
 - 3) Christ’s resurrection three days later – Jesus has to be first to resurrect (1Cor 15:20)
 - 4) Multitudes of bodies nearby Jerusalem resurrecting along with Christ
- e. Observed by:
 - 1) The overseeing Centurion comes to his own conclusion
 - a) “Truly this was the Son of God”
 - b) All the evidence is incontrovertible – indisputable – undeniable!!
 - 2) Many women from Galilee! Notice Mary the mother of _____ - She was mother of him called James the lesser, or junior, who was son of Alpheus or Cleopas – (see Mat 10:3; Mar 15:40; John 19:25); and she was sister to the virgin. So, it appears that there were four remarkable Marys mentioned in the Gospels.
 - a) Mary the mother of Jesus, and wife of Joseph.
 - b) Mary Salome, her sister, wife of Cleopas (John 19:25) – mother of James and Joses
 - c) Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala
 - d) Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (John 11:1)

G. Jesus is Buried (27:57-61)

1. It is 5-ish PM, and the sun is setting in the west
2. Joseph of Arimathaea acts quickly
 - a. A wealthy Jewish ruler
 - b. A counsellor – a _____ (Lk 23:50)
 - c. A _____ disciple of Jesus – there are far too many of these (Rom 11:4)
 - d. More honourable than Jesus’ own disciples – even John the Baptist’s disciples buried him (Mt 14:12)
 - e. BEGS for the body of Jesus to be given to him to bury with honour – not a normal thing to do for a criminal
 - f. He has to get the mangled body off of the cross, embalmed and wrapped for burial in less than an hour
 - g. He has the help of another secret disciple – _____ (Jn 19:39)
3. Pilate is _____ that Jesus was already dead – remember, the crucifixion was meant to draw out the torturous nature of the cross for days even
4. Grants Joseph the dead body after making sure Jesus was dead – by piercing His side into His _____ to make sure!
5. Jesus is wrapped in a clean linen burial cloth – possibly in strips, or one large long cloth – not a shroud. Burial should honour the death of the person – it should not be by cremation.
6. An hundred pound weight of spices were wrapped into the cloth around the body of Jesus (Jn 19:39) – to make it smell wonderful, and to help preserve it

7. Jesus is buried a _____ tomb – in another man’s tomb – because he would only need it for three days and nights!
8. It was a _____ tomb – Joseph was preparing for his own death, but freely gave it up to His Lord
9. It was a _____ tomb – not dirt that the disciples could dig into and steal the body away
10. It was a _____ tomb – a stone was rolled over the entrance of it (27:60; Jn 11:38)
11. It was a _____ tomb – by the women, who wanted to embalm Jesus MORE!

H. A Guard is set over a dead Man’s tomb (27:62-66)

1. Brief review of the Timeline up to this point
 - a. Jesus eats the passover supper a day early with His disciples – Tuesday Evening (Wednesday) – the day of preparation
 - b. He is crucified on Wednesday at 11am, and dies between 3 and 4pm
 - c. He is taken down and put into the tomb between 5 and 6pm
 - d. Thursday is a High Day – the Passover Sabbath – the day after the Preparation
 - e. Friday
 - f. Saturday is the normal Sabbath
 - g. Saturday evening is the First Day of the week – Sunday from Sunset on
2. On Thursday, Passover Day, the Chief priests demand a guard to protect the tomb from being robbed
 - a. They quote Him again – that after three days I will rise again!
 - b. Funny how unbelievers hear more of what Christ said than the disciples!
 - c. They are worried that a greater deception than Jesus’ teachings would spread by His body disappearing
3. Pilate grants them four soldiers
4. Those four soldiers are put in charge of a tomb – strange thing to guard
5. They made the tomb sure – NO ONE was going to disturb the body of Jesus!
6. To deists, and to universalists, and to most of the world, THIS is as far as they will read about Jesus. The resurrection is just too far!

III. Sequence of Crucifixion Events

Pilate sentences Jesus				19:13-15
Pilate delivers Jesus to be crucified				19:16
Jesus carries the cross				19:17
Simon of Cyrene bears the cross	27:31-32	15:20-21	23:26	
Jesus speaks to weeping women			23:27-32	
Jesus is brought to Golgotha	27:33	15:22	23:32-33	19:17
Soldiers offer Jesus sour wine mix	27:34	15:23		
Jesus is crucified at the 3rd hour		15:25		
2 Robbers are crucified with Jesus	27:38	15:27-28	23:33	19:18
Accusation written by Pilate	27:37	15:26	23:38	19:19-22
"Forgive them..."			23:34	
Soldiers divide the Lord's clothes	27:35-36	15:24	23:34	19:23-24
"Behold your mother."				19:25-27
Multitude mocks Jesus	27:39-43	15:29-32	23:35-37	
Robbers mock Jesus	27:44	15:32	29:39	
One robber rebukes the other			23:40-41	
"...you will be with me in Paradise"			23:43	
Darkness from 6th to 9th hour	27:45	15:33	23:44-45	
"Eli Eli, Lamma Sabachthani"	27:46	15:34		
"I thirst."				19:28
Sour wine is offered on a reed	27:47-49	15:35-36		19:29-30
"It is finished."				19:30
Jesus bows his head, and dies.	27:50	15:37	23:46	19:30
Temple veil torn from top to bottom	27:51	15:38	23:45	
Earthquake	27:51			
Centurion glorifies God	27:54	15:39	23:47	
Multitude leaves grieving			23:48	
Women watch from a distance	27:55-56	15:40-41	23:49	
Request that legs be broken				19:31-32
Soldier pierces Jesus' side				19:33-34
Fulfilment of Prophecy				19:35-37
Joseph requests body from Pilate	27:57-58	15:42-43	23:50-52	19:38
Centurion reports that Jesus is dead		15:44-45		
Joseph takes the body		15:45		19:38
Nicodemus and Joseph prepare the body				19:39-40
Body placed in new garden tomb	27:59-60	15:46	23:53	19:41-42
Two Marys watch the burial	27:61	15:47	23:54-55	
Roman soldiers guard the tomb	27:62-66			
Women prepare spices then rest			23:56	