

Church of God Sunday School

THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 26-28

The ministry of Jesus was coming to an end here on earth. At this particular time, after Jesus had taught His disciples many parables, He said to them, "Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified."

The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest to discuss how they might take Jesus and put Him to death. They envied and hated Jesus. They wanted to falsely accuse Jesus and have Him killed.

Jesus and His disciples went to the house of Simon the leper in Bethany. While Jesus was eating a meal there, a woman came up to Him carrying an alabaster box. (An alabaster box was a perfume container filled with an expensive ointment that was often used to prepare a dead body for burial.) This woman's name was Mary. She was the sister of Lazarus who was raised from the dead (see John 11:2). She poured the ointment on Jesus' head.

When Mary did that, the disciples became upset! They thought it was wasteful. They said: "This ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor." But Jesus said Mary had wrought a good work on Him. He told the disciples they would always have the poor, but they would not always have Him. Jesus said Mary poured the ointment on Him to anoint His body for His burial.

After that, Judas Iscariot (*is-KAR-ee-uht*) went to the chief priests and asked them what they would give him if he would turn Jesus over to them. They agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Passover feast, in the evening, as they were eating, Jesus told the twelve disciples that one of them would betray Him. They all were sorrowful to hear that. They began to ask who it was. Jesus said, "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me."

Judas Iscariot asked, "Master, is it I?" and Jesus said, "Thou hast said."



As they were eating, Jesus gave them the Lord's Supper to keep. After singing a hymn, Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There Jesus said they would all be offended because of Him that night. Peter firmly stated that he would *never* be offended! All the disciples said the same thing. Jesus told Peter that he would indeed deny Him three times that very night, even before the cock (rooster) would crow! Yet Peter still declared he would never do such a thing.

When they got to the Garden of Gethsemane (*geth-SEM-uh-nee*), Jesus left most of the disciples, telling them to sit and wait for Him. He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Jesus began to be very sorrowful and heavyhearted. He went a little way off to pray. He told the three disciples to "sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder." Then Jesus went a little farther away to pray alone—but they went to sleep!

Jesus came later and found them sleeping. He said to Peter: "What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus went to pray again.

When Jesus returned the second time, He found the three disciples sleeping again! He did not say anything to them. He left them and went to pray once more. The third time Jesus came to the disciples, they were still asleep. That time, Jesus told them the hour of His betrayal was at hand. They needed to get up. The one who would betray Him was coming.

While Jesus was speaking, Judas Iscariot came with a great multitude from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas went up to Jesus. He said "Hail, master," and he kissed Jesus.

Then the crowd took Jesus. Peter drew his sword and cut off the high priest's servant's ear, and Jesus told him to put away his sword. Jesus said that He could pray to His Father for more than twelve legions of angels, but that the Scriptures would not be fulfilled if He did. Soon after that, the disciples deserted Jesus.

Only Peter followed afar off when Jesus was led away to the high priest.

The chief priests and elders and all the council looked for false witnesses against Jesus. Finally, two men came, saying Jesus had said that He was able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.

The high priest told Jesus to tell them plainly if He was the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said, "Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Upon hearing that, they said Jesus was guilty and worthy of death. They began to mistreat Him. They spit in His face and slapped Him. They struck him repeatedly. They made fun of Him. They said, "Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?"

Meanwhile, in another part of the palace, Peter had already denied knowing Jesus two times! One more time would fulfill what Jesus had said about him. When Peter denied knowing Christ for the third time, he cursed. Suddenly, the cock (rooster)

began to crow! Peter remembered what Jesus had said about him. He went out and wept bitterly.

In the morning, Jesus was taken to the governor, Pontius Pilate (*PON-chuhs PI-luht*). But Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and the elders, repenting and bringing the silver. But they would not accept his admission or the money. They did not care that Judas was sorry. They already had Jesus. There was nothing more Judas could do; so he threw down the money in the temple and went and hanged himself.

Now, Pilate could find no fault in Jesus. But the chief priests had persuaded the people to ask Pilate to release a murderer named Barabbas (*buh-RAB-uhs*) and crucify Jesus. Pilate washed his hands before the

people, to show them that he was not guilty of Jesus' blood. (Did that really cancel his guilt?) Then he released Barabbas and delivered Jesus to be scourged (beaten with a whip) and then crucified!

The soldiers stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him, a crown of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They bowed to Him in mockery, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Him. They hit Him on the head with the reed, again and again. Finally, they took the robe off Jesus, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Jesus had been treated so badly that He could not carry His own cross, so a Cyrenian man named Simon was made to carry it for Him.

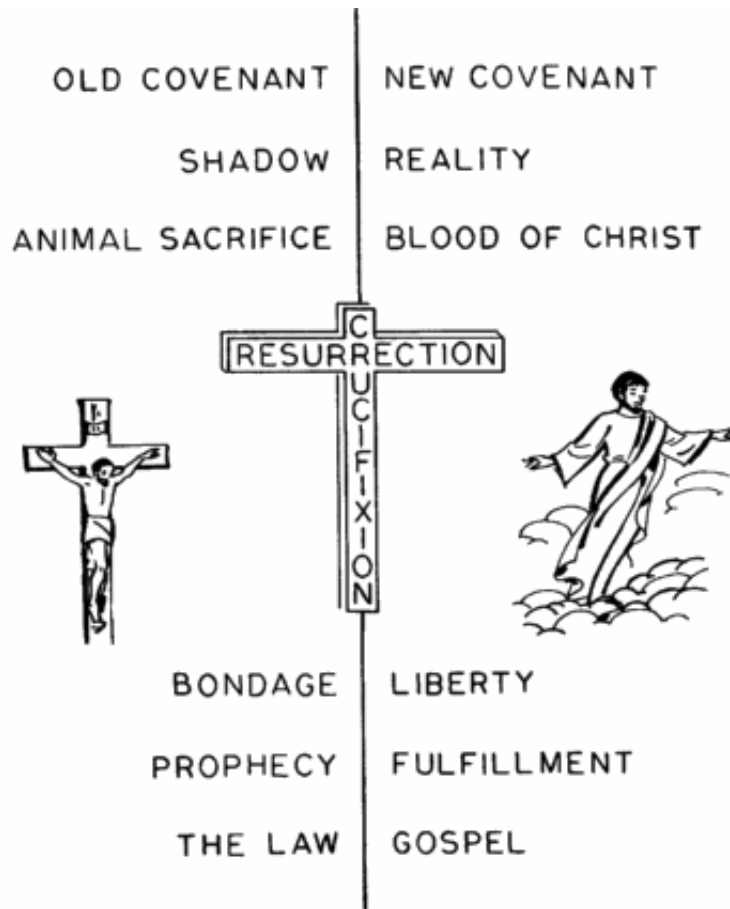
At Calvary, or Golgotha (*GOL-guh-thuh*), the soldiers parted Christ's garments. They cast lots for them, as foretold in the Scriptures (Psalm 22:18). The soldiers sat down and watched Jesus.

A sign, reading, **THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS**, was placed over Christ's head. Two thieves were also crucified that day—one thief on Christ's right and

the other on His left. People walked by Jesus shaking their heads. The chief priests, scribes, and elders mocked Jesus.

Darkness covered the earth from the sixth hour to the ninth hour. Suddenly, Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" In other words, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out once more sometime after that, then He died.

Immediately, the veil that hung in the door to the holy of holies was torn from the top to the bottom, signifying the end of the old covenant! (The Holy Ghost dispensation was beginning.) Also, there was a great earthquake! A centurion and others said, "Truly this was the Son of God."



Joseph of Arimathaea (*air-uh-muh-THEE-uh*), a disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and begged for Jesus' body. He wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb. He rolled a large stone in front of the door of the tomb.

Soldiers were sent to guard Jesus' tomb because the Pharisees and the chief priests were afraid the disciples would come and steal Jesus' body. (Later, after the chief priests learned that Jesus had resurrected, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money to lie, saying that the disciples had stolen His body.)

In the early morning of the third day, Mary Magdalene (*MAG-duh-leen*) and Mary, the mother of James and Joses, came to the tomb. There was another great earthquake. An angel with a face as bright as lightning and clothes as white as snow, was at the tomb. He rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it! The soldiers guarding the tomb were so scared that they shook and then "became as dead men."

The angel said to the women: "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is

not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee . . ."

As the women were on their way to tell the disciples, Jesus met them. They worshiped Him. Jesus also told them to not be afraid and to tell the disciples that they could see Him in Galilee. So they went to tell them.

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus met them. Jesus told His disciples: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

MEMORY VERSE:

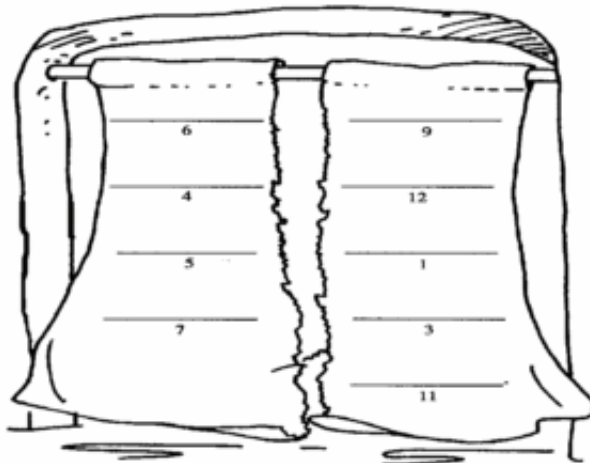
"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." —Matthew 28:6

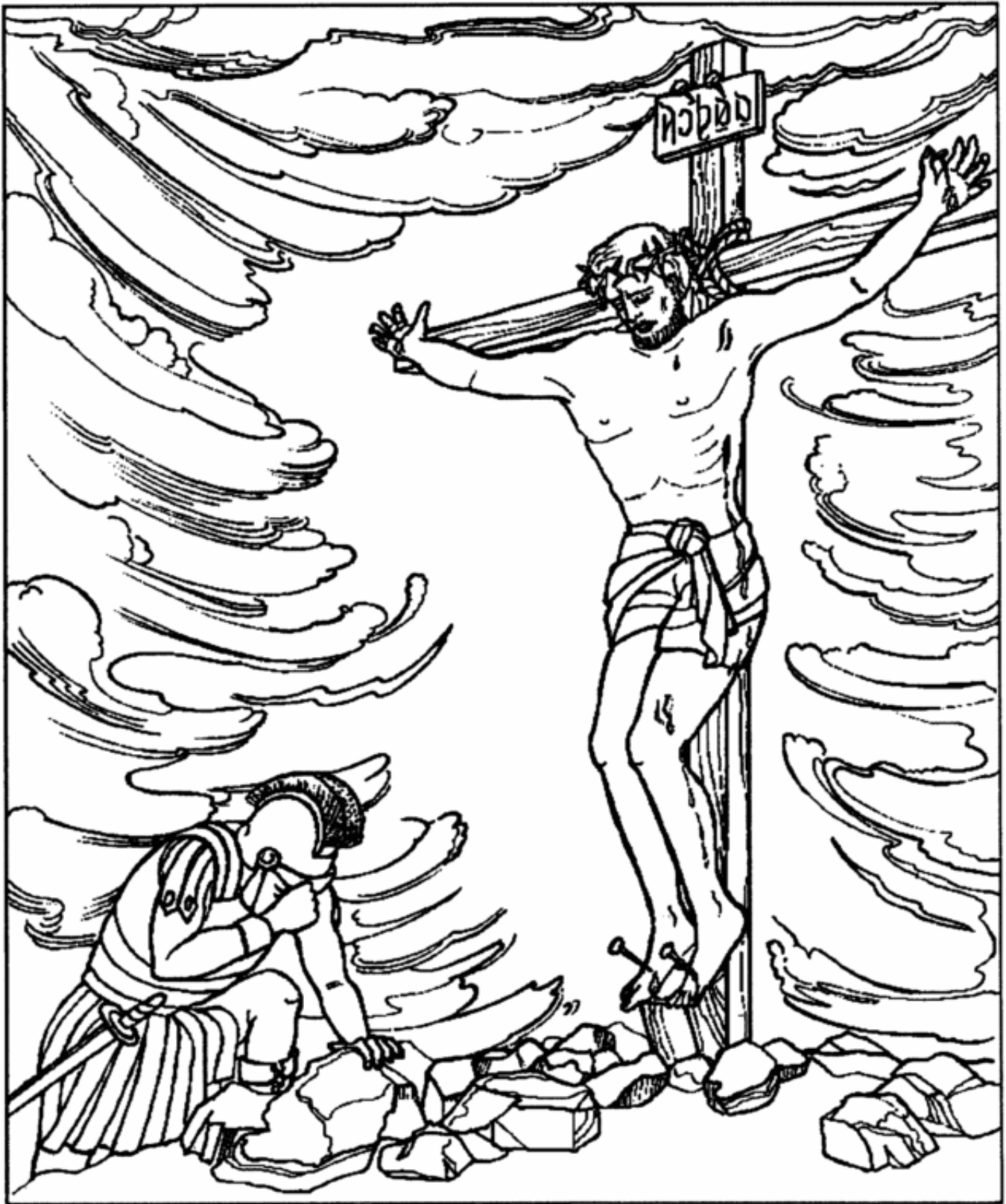


At the moment when Jesus died, something happened. What was it?

Write the words from the boxes on the lines.

was 1	cross 2	in 3
of 4	temple 5	The 6
torn 7	sky 8	curtain 9
down 10	two 11	the 12





Jesus Died on the Cross for All