

## Book Study – Matthew 26 - 27

### *The Soldiers Mock Jesus – The Crucifixion – The Death of Jesus – The Burial of Jesus*

#### Before We Begin Our Journey...

1. What effect do you think violence in the media has on our society?
2. Where do you stand in the ongoing debate over capital punishment?
3. What is it like to be separated from someone you love?

#### Do Some Digging and Pre-planning...

4. Who took charge of the flogging and crucifixion of Jesus? ([27:26-27](#))? ([26:70](#))
5. Where did the guards take Jesus? Why? ([27:27-28](#)) ...and...what did the guards do? ([27:27-31](#))
6. What did onlookers shout at Jesus? ([27:39-40](#))
7. What was the behavior of the religious leaders like as they watched Jesus die? ([27:41-43](#))
8. What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour? Why? ([27:46](#)) What did Jesus’ last words mean? ([27:46](#))
9. How did a Roman centurion react to the way Jesus died? ([27:54](#))
10. What kind of help did Jesus receive at His death? ([27:57-58](#))
11. What did Joseph do with Jesus’ body? ([27:59-60](#)) Who watched Joseph bury Jesus? ([27:61](#))

#### Sort, Organize, Gain Understanding...

12. Why did Christ put up with torture when He could have destroyed all His attackers?
13. Why does it hurt to be mocked and laughed at and scorned?
14. How does it make you feel to realize that Jesus underwent horrible abuse for you?
15. What did Jesus accomplish for you with His death?
16. As a respected Jewish religious leader (see [Mark 15:42-43](#) and [John 19:38](#)), what risk was Joseph taking in coming forward to bury Jesus?



#### Application for the Journey...

17. In what way can you be a peacemaker this week at home, at work, or among your neighbors?
18. In what way can you show your gratitude to Jesus today in light of all He suffered for you?
19. What steps can you take this week to allow the profound truth of this passage to sink in?



#### Direction Finder...



Ever been mocked?  
Scorned? Rejected? Mmm...

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I will...\_\_\_\_\_

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*A prayer for your journey... “Lord Jesus, as I walk through this coming week, help me prepare for my journey by reading my Bible more regularly, seeking help as I need it from my Christian friends and focusing on the needs of others instead of myself. Help me to demonstrate my faith by stepping into the unknown, untried, and untested areas of my life.”*  
-Amen

## The Praetorium:

Herod's Palace: According to the historian Josephus, Herod the Great built an extensive, luxurious palace in the "upper city" of Jerusalem just south of the present Jaffa Gate. A fortress itself, it was built against the western wall of the city for further strength. On its north side, Herod built three towers, each named for a person close to him: Hippicus, a friend who died in battle, Phasael, one of his sons, also killed in battle, and Mariamne, his Hasmonean wife whom he murdered out of jealousy. In the intervening years, the Arabs, Crusaders and Turks have occupied this site and progressively destroyed it. Only the base of the Phasael tower has been identified as Herodian, under what today is known, inaccurately, as David's Tower, a part of "the Citadel."



When Herod died, the palace passed over to his son Archelaus who was given control of Judea and Samaria. When Archelaus was deposed in A.D. 6, the palace became the official residence of the Roman prefect (or procurator). The prefect was appointed by the emperor and responsible to him for governing Judea and Samaria. His residence and administrative headquarters were at Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast. When he came to Jerusalem, usually for feast days, he resided either at the Fortress of Antonia or Herod's Palace.

Conclusion: At the time of Jesus' trial, the prefect Pilate, was accompanied by his wife to Jerusalem. It is almost certain that on this occasion, Pilate stayed in Herod's Palace rather than in the more Spartan facilities of the Fortress of Antonia. Historical considerations: Philo records that Pilate resided in this Palace during feasts in Jerusalem. In addition, one of his successors, Gessius Florus also stayed there in May of A.D. 66 as the Jewish Revolt was about to break out.

Of the four Gospel records of this event, only John mentions the praetorium (John 18:28-40). If Herod's Palace is to be identified as the praetorium at that time, it would mean that the Sanhedrin brought Jesus to the courtyard of this extensive structure, just north of the residence of the high priest. When Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas from there, He would have been taken across the city to the Hasmonean Palace near the western side of the Temple Mount (Luke 23:6-12). On His return, Pilate made two offers to the Sanhedrin, to accept his beating of Jesus ("Behold the man") and to release Jesus or Barabbas (John 18:39-19:16). The praetorium is mentioned several times during these events, and at the end becomes the place where Jesus was mocked and beaten (Matt 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19). From the praetorium, then, Jesus was led out to Golgotha to be crucified. If the "praetorium" is to be identified as Herod's Palace, we have a more accurate sense of the geographical context in which these historical events occurred.