



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE MATTHEW 27:38-54

## LESSON: CRUCIFIED FOR SINNERS — April 2, 2023

### INTRODUCTION:

#### THE CHIEF PRIESTS TAKE JESUS TO PILATE

**Matthew 27** begins with Jesus being brought to Pilate by the chief priests and elders of Israel (**verses 1-2**). The Jews were prevented by law from carrying out executions, so the religious leaders sent Jesus to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>Matthew's Gospel has several unique contributions. It is Matthew's account that includes an account of the suicide (27:3-10) of Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, and handed Him over to the Jewish religious leaders. **27:11-26** is the account of Jesus' trial before Pilate. Matthew also records the intervention of Pilate's wife, who had a sleepless night and therefore warned her husband not to be a part of the execution of Jesus, since He was a "**just man.**" Actually in (**27:19, NAB**) she referred Jesus to be a righteous man. Matthew is the one who includes an account of Pilate washing his hands (27:24), a symbolic gesture intended to indicate that he did not approve of the crucifixion of Jesus. This does not release him from his guilt for taking part in the death of Jesus. He gave Jesus over to the Jews to be put to death, and he facilitated their plans by having Roman soldiers conduct the crucifixion. And this, Pilate did, knowingly that Jesus was innocent. Finally, Matthew records that incredible statement of the Jews: "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" (27:25). They placed a curse upon the whole Jewish race. Crucified between two thieves, Jesus expired after six hours. His body was buried in Joseph of Arimathaea's tomb, secured by Roman guards. 26-27 Barabbas is released and Jesus is openly scourged before hundreds of soldiers. 28They stripped Him. Humiliated Him. Put a scarlet robe on Him. **29**Platted a crown of thorns and put it on His head and a reed in His right hand. They bowed a knee before Him and mocked Him saying Hail King of the Jews! **30**They spat on Him and took the reed out of His hand and smote (beat) Him on the head with it. **31**After mocking Jesus, they took the robe off of Him and put His clothes back on, leading Him to be crucified and carrying His own cross! **32** A man called Simon of Cyrene was enlisted to help carry Jesus' cross for Jesus was exhausted and could no longer bear (carry) it. **33** The soldiers took Jesus to the place that is called Golgotha. (Golgotha means the place of a skull.) **34** The soldiers tried to give Jesus vinegar mingled with gall, but Jesus could not drink. **35** Then the soldiers crucified Jesus, and divided His garments, deciding to gamble by casting lots for them. **36**They then sat and watched Him. **37** Above His head they fixed a notice. This showed the reason why they were killing Him. It said, **'THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.'**

### LESSON: I. ABUSE OF JESUS MATTHEW 27:38-44

**27:38** Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. Jesus was counted as a sinner, crucified between two thieves; one on His right hand and another on His left.

**27:39** And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,— Along with the soldiers there were a lot of passers-by that despised and reviled Jesus on the cross, doing a wagging motion with their heads which showed insult, contempt, and mockery. Why? It's in the next verse.

**27:40** And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buldest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. They didn't like what Jesus said (1.) He claimed to have power to destroy and rebuild the temple. (2.) He claimed to be the Son of God.

**27:41** Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,— The religionist (chief priests, scribes, and elders) were also apart of the mocking of Jesus. The average person mocks and abuses Christ from day to day. How? (1.) By ridiculing Christ's claim to be the Son of God. (2.) By cursing and profaning

<sup>1</sup> [http://executableoutlines.com/matt\\_sg/matt\\_sg\\_27.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/matt_sg/matt_sg_27.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://bible.org/seriespage/jesus-pilate-part-i-john-1828-38>





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the Name of Jesus. (3.) By challenging Christ to prove His power by meeting their needs when they had not believed for Christ. (4.) By acting worse toward Christ and His followers than toward the rest of society, even criminals.

*Leaders, civil and religious are still men. It is not the position or profession that makes a man, but it is the heart. The heart has to be pure. But, a heart of unbelief and enmity, a heart willing to become a participant with the sinful crowd will stop at nothing to do shameful things, no matter the position or profession.*

**27:42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.** Yes, He could not save Himself. If Jesus had used His power and saved Himself, what would have happened to our salvation? But...

- They mocked His claim to be the Savior, to save others.
- They mocked His claim to be the King of Israel.

**27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.** Yes true.

- They mocked His claim to trust God perfectly.
- They mocked His claim to be the Son of God.

Their purpose was not God's purpose. Unbelief will cause that.

**27:44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.** Even the criminals mocked Jesus. The statement "*cast the same in his teeth*" means they repeated similar taunts to Jesus.

## II. ABANDONMENT OF JESUS MATTHEW 27:45-50

**27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.** For three hours from the sixth hour (12:00 noon) to the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.) was terrifying darkness; was an unusual phenomena. **First,** "*there was a darkness over all the earth . . . and the sun was darkened.*" Sin deserved no light from God's presence. Who was on the cross?

- God's only begotten Son, the Sovereign Lord of all beings, visible and invisible (Colo.1:16).
- The great Architect and Creator of the whole universe, of all nature.

What was He doing there on the cross?

- Bearing the sins of all men
- Bearing the judgment and wrath of God's anger against sin for all men.
- Dying the death for all men.
- Dying all that was necessary to free men from sin, death, and judgment so that they might live forever.

**27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?— Second,** at "*the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice.*" The mysterious loud cry was "*saying Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" This was the moment of the great separation when Jesus sensed that God had withdrawn His presence; withdrawn His deliverance. Why? For Jesus was bearing the curse of God, the curse of separation, the curse of judgment and condemnation of God's anger against sin. Jesus had sense that life and holiness had left Him (the man part), and that He had been delivered into the hands of sin and death which was foreign to Jesus. Jesus had to bear the penalty due man—the penalty of separation from a perfectly holy God. Therefore, we would never have to experience eternal separation from God! ( I just don't know what to say after that, but HALLELUJAH!)

**27:47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.** Yes, the mysterious loud cry was misunderstood, and some thought Jesus was calling for Elias.

**27:48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.** So, one began to take the sponge and fill it with vinegar, putting it on the reed to reach Him, to give Him something to drink.



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**27:49** The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. But others began to mock by saying let Elias come and save Him. Let Him be.

**27:50** Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. With Jesus' last breath; last loud cry, He yielded His Spirit to God. This He willingly done! In John 19:30 Jesus cried, IT IS FINISHED!

## III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF JESUS MATTHEW 27:51-54

**27:51** And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;— Third, *"the veil of the temple was split in twain from the top to the bottom; Fourth, and the earth did quake, Fifth, and the rocks broke."*

**27:52** And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, — Sixth, *"the graves opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose."* We can refer back to John 5:28-29 *"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that is in yhe graves shall hear his vioce, And they shall come forth, they that have done good into the rresurrectio of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrecion of damnation."* Those in the graves heard His voice! Their resurrection symbolized two things: (1.)The conquest of death because of Jesus. The sting is now taken from death; the power of death is now broken.

**27:53** And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Those that came out of the graves after Jesus' Resurrection were seen by many as they went into the holy city. (2.) This symbolized the resurrection of believers. Believers shall arise and be recognized and know one another.

**27:54** Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. Seventh, This was a powerful confession made by the centurion and others, *"Truly this was the Son of God. "*

## SUMMARY:

**38**Jesus was counted as a sinner, crucified between two thieves; one on the right hand and another on the left. **39**Along with the soldiers there were a lot of passers-by that despised and reviled Jesus on the cross, doing a wagging motion with their heads which showed insult, contempt, and mockery. **40**They didn't like what Jesus said (1.) He claimed to have power to destrroy and rebuild the temple. (2.) He claimed to be the Son of God. **41**The religionist (chief priests, scribes, and elders) were apart of the mocking of Jesus also, saying **42** *He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.* **43***He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.* **44**Even the criminals who were crucified, mocked Jesus, also repeating similar taunts to Jesus.

**45** For three hours, from the sixth hour (12:00 noon) to the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.) was terrifying darkness. **46**At *"the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? ...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* This was the moment of the great separation when Jesus sensed that God had withdrawn His presence. Jesus had to bear the penalty due man—the penalty of separation from a perferly holy God. Therefore, we would never have to experience eternal separation from God! **47**Yes, the msyterious loud cry was misunderstood, and some thought Jesus was calling for Elias. **48**So, one began to take the sponge and fill it with vinegar, putting it on the reed to reach Him to give Him something to drink. **49**But others began to mock by saying, let Elias come and save Him. Let Him be. **50** With Jesus' last breath; last loud cry, He yielded His Spirit to God.

**51**Then *"the veil of the temple was split in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks broke."* **52***The graves opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose."* **53**Those that came out of the graves after Jesus' Resurrection were seen by many as they went into the holy city. **54**This was a powerful confession made by the centurion and others, *"Truly this was the Son of God."*