

LESSON 11

DEATH AND BURIAL, PART 1

FRIDAY: THE DAY OF JESUS' DEATH (CONTINUED)

(MT. 27:31B–66; MK. 15:20B–47;
LK. 23:26–56; JN. 19:17–42)

Previously in the narrative, preparations were being made for Jesus' crucifixion: Instructions had to be given, soldiers had to be assigned to the execution detail (see Jn. 23; Mt. 27:54), a sign had to be painted (Mt. 27:37), and the inevitable paperwork had to be completed. Written reports were to be sent to Rome regarding trials conducted by its officials. Finally, sometime before 9:00 a.m., everything was ready and the procession started north.

The centurion in charge (see Mt. 27:54) likely led the group. Following him were those condemned to die: Jesus and two common criminals (Lk. 23:32). Behind them were soldiers prodding them on. To the rear was the usual crowd attracted to calamity. No doubt many came out of morbid curiosity, but some of the women wept (Lk. 23:27). [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 513–530.]

1. How much did an entire cross probably weigh?
2. Why did Mark mention the names of Simon of Cyrene's two sons?
3. What did Jesus mean when He spoke of the tree in Lk. 23:28–31?
4. What do we know about the location of Golgotha?
5. What was the nature of the drink that Jesus tasted and refused (Mt. 27:34)?
6. How did Romans crucify criminals?
7. What had been the nature of the crime of the two criminals crucified on either side of Jesus?

8. Why was the sign above Jesus' head written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek?
9. What was the nature of the torture of being crucified?

Christ's six hours on the cross naturally divide into two three-hour periods: three hours of light (Mk. 15:25, 33) and three hours of darkness (Mk. 15:33). The first period was from about 9:00 a.m. to noon.

10. Why were the soldiers at the foot of the cross so perplexed as to what to do with Jesus' tunic?
11. What was ironic about the taunt of the Jewish leaders in Mk. 15:31b and Mt. 27:42a?
12. How did the criminal on the cross next to Jesus know about Jesus' kingdom?
13. Where was the Paradise that Jesus promised the criminal they would both be in that day?
14. Who among the crowd mourned for Jesus?

"It was now about the sixth hour" (Lk. 23:44a)—that is, around noon, when the sun was at its brightest. "And darkness fell over the whole land..., because the sun was obscured" (Lk. 23:44b, 45a).

15. What reasons are there for believing that the darkness was a supernatural event?
16. What did Christ mean when He said, "Why have You forsaken me?" in Mt. 27:46a?
17. What Scripture did Jesus fulfill when He announced that He was thirsty (Jn. 19:28)?
18. Of what significance was Jesus' cry "It is finished!" in Jn. 19:30a?
19. What other miracles took place when Jesus gave up His spirit?
20. On whom did the nature of Jesus' death have a special impact that day?