

April 2, 2023

**Crucifixion**  
**Matthew 27:32-56**  
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Vol. 13 Num. 14

## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will look at the Crucifixion of Jesus in Matthew 27. This section records the death of Jesus on the cross. It shows how He was beaten, mocked, humiliated, and killed on the cross. This is one of the central parts of Christianity. The death of Jesus on the cross is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. Jesus going to the cross pays for our sin so that we can be right with God. It also shows us the extent of love that God has for us. It is important for us to always look at our relationship to God and this world through the understanding of the cross. Join us this week as we look at what the Son of God endured for our salvation.

AT THAT MOMENT THE VEIL OF THE  
TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM  
TOP TO BOTTOM. THE EARTH  
QUAKED AND THE ROCKS WERE  
SPLIT.  
- MATTHEW 27:51

## The Crucifixion

32 As they were going out, they found a man from Cyrene named Simon, whom they forced to carry his cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “Place of the Skull”) 34 and offered Jesus wine mixed with gall to drink. But after tasting it, he would not drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, *they divided his clothes by throwing dice*. 36 Then they sat down and kept guard over him there. 37 Above his head they put the charge against him, which read: “This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.” 38 Then two outlaws were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by defamed him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, “You who can destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are God’s Son, come down from the cross!” 41 In the same way even the chief priests – together with the experts in the law and elders – were mocking him: 42 “He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the king of Israel! If he comes down now from the cross, we will believe in him! 43 *He trusts in God – let God, if he wants to, deliver him now* because he said, ‘I am God’s Son!’” 44 The robbers who were crucified with him also spoke abusively to him.

## Jesus’ Death

45 Now from noon until three, darkness came over all the land. 46 At about three o’clock Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” that is, “***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***” 47 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the rest said, “Leave him alone! Let’s see if Elijah will come to save him.” 50 Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit. 51 Just then the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split apart. 52 And tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had died were raised. 53 (They came out of the tombs after his resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.) 54 Now when the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were extremely terrified and said, “Truly this one was God’s Son!” 55 Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and given him support were also there, watching from a distance. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

1.

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10.

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
What does God MEAN?

1. Why did they put a sign reading King of the Jews?
2. What is it talking about in verse 40 when it talks about rebuilding the temple in 3 days?
3. Do you think the chief priest would have worshiped Jesus if He came down off the cross?
4. Do you think the people associated the darkness with Jesus' death?
5. Why was the temple curtain torn in two?
6. What do we learn from the centurion's statement in verse 54?



Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*