

The Passion Narrative

Narrator ¹When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: ²And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. ³Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴Saying,

Judas I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.

Narrator And they said, What is that to us? See thou to that. ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. ⁶And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. ⁷And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. ⁸Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. ⁹Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of

the children of Israel did value; ¹⁰And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

¹¹And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying,

Pilate Art thou the King of the Jews?

Narrator And Jesus said unto him,

Jesus Thou sayest.

Narrator ¹²And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then said Pilate unto him,

Pilate Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

Narrator ¹⁴And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

¹⁵Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. ¹⁶And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them,

Pilate Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

Narrator ¹⁸For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. ¹⁹When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying,

Pilate's Wife Have thou nothing to do with that just man:
for I have suffered many things this day in a
dream because of him.

Narrator ²⁰But the chief priests and elders persuaded the
multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and
destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor answered and said
unto them,

Pilate Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto
you?

Narrator They said,

Crowd Barabbas.

Narrator ²²Pilate saith unto them,

Pilate What shall I do then with Jesus which is called
Christ?

Narrator They all say unto him,

Crowd Let him be crucified.

Narrator ²³And the governor said,

Pilate Why, what evil hath he done?

Narrator But they cried out the more, saying,

Crowd Let him be crucified.

Narrator ²⁴When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing,
but that rather a tumult was made, he took water,
and washed his hands before the multitude,
saying,

Pilate I am innocent of the blood of this just person:
see ye to it.

Narrator ²⁵Then answered all the people, and said,

Crowd His blood be on us, and on our children.

Narrator ²⁶Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. ²⁸And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

²⁹And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying,

Crowd Hail, King of the Jews!

Narrator ³⁰And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him. ³²And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

All stand as able

³³And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

³⁴They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. ³⁵And they crucified him, and parted

his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. ³⁶And sitting down they watched him there;

³⁷And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. ³⁹And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, ⁴⁰And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. ⁴¹Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

Chief Priest ⁴²He 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. ⁴³He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

Narrator ⁴⁴The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. ⁴⁶And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,

Jesus Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?

Narrator that is to say,

Jesus My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Narrator ⁴⁷Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said,

Crowd This man calleth for Elias.

Narrator ⁴⁸And 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. ⁴⁹The rest said,

Crowd Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

Narrator ⁵⁰Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

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Narrator ⁵¹And, 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; ⁵²And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, ⁵³And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying,

Crowd Truly this was the Son of God.

Narrator ⁵⁵And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: ⁵⁶Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedees children. ⁵⁷When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: ⁵⁸He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. ⁵⁹And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. ⁶¹And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

⁶²Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, ⁶³Saying,

Chief Priest Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. ⁶⁴Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the

dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

Narrator ⁶⁵Pilate said unto them,

Pilate Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.