

25. Jesus Died at the Cross

Introduction: In the previous story, Jesus was arrested and brought to a government official who interrogated him. The official could not find any guilt in Jesus. He originally wanted to release Jesus. But the people, who did not believe that Jesus was God's son, still wanted him killed. And they said that they and their descendants would take the blame for Jesus' death. (Luke 23:13–25)

The soldiers brought Jesus and two other criminals to a place called The Skull. In that place, they nailed Jesus to the cross; and of those two criminals, one was nailed to a cross on Jesus' left side, and one on Jesus' right side. (Luke 23:32–33)

There were many people watching. One of the officials was there, laughing at Jesus, and saying, "If he really is the one that God is giving us as the savior, and if he has saved so many other people, now he should be able to save himself." (Luke 23:35)

Also, one of the criminals next to Jesus also insulted Jesus, saying, "Aren't you the savior? You should save yourself, and also save us now!" (Luke 23:39)

But the other criminal scolded the one who was insulting Jesus, saying, "Even now do you still not fear God? We did many bad things, and deserve to be nailed to a cross to die. But this man never did any bad things." (Luke 23:40–41)

Then he asked Jesus, "Jesus! When God gives you great authority in heaven, please don't forget about me!" (Luke 23:42)

Jesus told this criminal, "I am telling you now; today you will go with me to God's home." (Luke 23:43)

When it was about noon, the whole land turned dark. There was no light in the sky, until three o'clock. Jesus then shouted loudly, "God! My father! I put my spirit into your hands!" After he said this, he died. (Luke 23:44–46)

Many people saw Jesus die, and were very sad. There was one of the religious leaders, who did not like what the other religious leaders had done to Jesus. He went to the government official and begged to have Jesus' body. He took Jesus' body down from the cross, used some cloth to wrap the body, and put into a new tomb. He then used a big stone to seal the tomb. (Luke 23:48, 50–53)

That day was Friday, in the early evening. There were some women who were followers of Jesus. They followed this man who brought Jesus' body to the tomb, and watched him put Jesus into the tomb. (Luke 23:54–55)

Then they went home. According to their tradition, they were supposed to prepare Jesus' body with some sweet smelling oil. But the next day was the Sabbath day, so they would have to wait until after the Sabbath before they could go back to the tomb to rub the sweet smelling oil onto Jesus' body. (Luke 23:56)