

A Place Called Calvary

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 10

The Crucifixion of Christ

When Jesus lived, He did something amazing—something that no one else has ever done. He lived a perfect life. He spent His life healing and helping people who needed Him. The Bible tells that he performed many miracles. He also told stories that taught people lessons about how to live. However, the most important thing Jesus did was die. That was the reason Jesus came to earth! He came to die for the sins of the whole world so that we can someday go to a wonderful place called Heaven. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life in payment for our sin.

It is sad for us to think about Jesus dying. In this lesson we are going to learn whose fault it was that Jesus died.

Evidence Against the Roman Soldiers

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

—John 19:34

The Bible tells us that when Jesus was going to be crucified, one of the Roman soldiers stabbed him in the side with a sword. This made Jesus bleed. Can you imagine being stabbed with a sword? It must have been very painful.

And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

—John 19:2, 3

The Roman soldiers also made fun of Jesus. They did not understand why He was letting them hurt Him. They did not believe He was the Son of God because He would not fight them back. They made Him a crown out of thorns. Have you ever seen a rose? Roses are very pretty. They come in many beautiful colors. But roses have thorns on their stems that can prick you and make you bleed. The thorns on roses can hurt, even though they are very small. The thorns that the Romans put on Jesus' head were very big. They pushed the crown of thorns into His head and mockingly called Him "King of the Jews."

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.

—Matthew 27:54

Only one of the Roman soldiers finally believed Jesus. The Bible tells us that, right before Jesus died, this soldier said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). The Roman soldiers were partly to blame for Jesus' death on the cross.

Evidence Against Pilate

Another person to blame for Jesus' death was a man called Pilate. Pilate was a Roman governor. He was responsible for making a lot of decisions. He was the one to make the final decision about Jesus' death. When Jesus was arrested, He was taken to Pilate by the Jewish rulers. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong. But Pilate was afraid of the people. When he went out to tell the people his decision, everyone was yelling, "Crucify him!" (Luke 23:21) He did not want the people to be mad at him, but he didn't want to be responsible for crucifying Jesus either. He tried to put the blame on someone else for Jesus' death. But, he made the final decision.

Evidence Against the Chief Priests

And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

—Luke 24:20

Through Jesus' whole life, the scribes and the Pharisees always hated Him. They hated what He taught. They hated what He did. They did not want to worship Jesus as the Son of God. It made them angry that many people loved Jesus. They spent their whole lives trying to get rid of Jesus. They were the ones who told Judas that they would pay him to turn Jesus over to the soldiers.

Evidence Against You and Me

Many different people were involved in Jesus' death. After Jesus had helped so many, it is very sad to think that there were so many people who wanted Him dead. Even though the priests and soldiers thought they were the ones who killed Jesus, Jesus actually gave His life. He knew from the time He was born that He would die on the cross for the sins of all mankind. Because we are all sinners, that makes us all responsible for Jesus' death.

Conclusion

Did you know that you are responsible for Jesus' death on the cross? Just like the Roman soldier, Pilate, the chief priests, and the many others we learned about in this lesson, we also bear the blame for Jesus' death. Since that is true, what should we do?

Jesus died because He loves us and wants us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven once our lives here on earth are ended. For that to happen, we must accept Jesus' gift of salvation. We must ask Jesus to forgive our sins so that we can go to Heaven. Once we accept His gift and are saved, we can also serve God. Serving God does not get us to Heaven, but it shows God that we're thankful He gave us His Son. We can also tell other people about Jesus. We can tell them that Jesus died for them just like He did for us! Even though we are responsible for His death, telling others about Him is the best way that we can show Jesus how thankful we are that He died for us.