

Examining EASTER

Who Caused Christ's Crucifixion? Message 1

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April 2, 2023

► Outline

Then the soldiers nailed Him to the cross. . . .

Mark 15:24 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:24)

B. Did Jesus die because of . . .

1. A _____ disciple?

(Matthew 26:14-25; 36-50; John 12:3-6.

C/R: Matthew 6:24; Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 6:9-10)

2. An _____ religious leadership?

(Mark 15:9-11; John 5:16-18; 11:47-53.

C/R: Galatians 5:26; Philippians 2:3; James 3:14-16)

3. An _____ authority?

(John 19:1-16. C/R: Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 27:24-26;

Mark 15:15; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 13:6)

4. An _____ person?

(Acts 4:27-28; Roman 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21;

1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 4:10)

Answers: 1. greedy 2. envious 3. insecure 4. ordinary

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Define *betrayal*.

Prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read Matthew 26:14-50; 27:27-31.

1. Judas betrayed Jesus. What were his motives?
2. The word betray (or betrayer) is used six times in Matthew 26:14-50. Why is Judas' betrayal such an important part of the Easter story?
3. After the Passover meal, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn (many scholars believe this was part or all of Psalm 113-118). Based on the entire scene in the Upper Room, what do you think the disciples were experiencing?

Read Mark 15:9-11 and John 5:16-18; 11:47-53.

4. Why were the Jewish leaders relentless in their desire to kill Jesus?
5. Do you know anyone who is severely opposed to Jesus? How can you respond to their hostility?

Read John 19:1-16.

6. Why did Pilate have Jesus killed even though he found Him *not guilty*?
7. What emotions do you think Pilate wrestled with as he had Jesus flogged and turned over to be crucified?
8. Describe a time you made a decision based on fear or insecurity rather than on what was right. How do you feel about that now? How can you guard against that in the future?

Read Acts 4:27-28 and 1 Peter 3:18.

9. Why is Jesus' death necessary for salvation?
10. What questions, thoughts or emotions stir in you as you reflect on the crucifixion?
11. How has Jesus' sacrifice on the cross transformed you?
12. Who caused Christ's crucifixion?

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is something we can do to help us live in and enjoy God's grace. Our hope is that these would become a regular part of your life, so that walking and talking with God is the most natural thing you do.

Consider watching the movie *The Passion of the Christ* by yourself or with your group this week. Find a quiet space and read Mark 15:21-47. Reflect on Jesus' death and His unfailing love for you.

Memory Verse

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. **1 John 4:10 (NLT)**

Daily Reading

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Day 1: John 12:1-13 | Day 4: 1 Peter 2:22-25 |
| Day 2: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 | Day 5: Romans 5:1-8 |
| Day 3: James 3:13-18 | |

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, April 9, we'll conclude the series, *Examining Easter*. To prepare, read **John 20:1-29**.



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