

Lesson 143 The Crucifixion

I. Scripture Text

Matthew 27:31-56 And 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.

32 And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

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

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

35 And 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.

36 And sitting down they watched him there;

37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

40 And 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.

41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

42 He 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.

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

44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

47 Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

48 And 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.

49 The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

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

51 And, 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;

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

54 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.

55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

56 Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

Mark 15:20-41 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.

24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.

33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias.

36 And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;

41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.

Luke 23:26-49 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

28 But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

29 For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck.

30 Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

37 And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.

38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.

46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.

49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

John 19:17-37 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now

accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

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

35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

II. Bible Story

CE 5-1 Jesus is forced to carry His cross

The trial of Jesus before Pilate was over. The soldiers took Jesus, half alive from weariness, pain, and loss of blood, and placed a rough, heavy, wooden cross on His sore, beaten shoulders. They told Him to carry the cross, on which He was to be crucified, to the outside of the city gate and up the rocky path to the hill of Calvary.

The cross was very heavy, and Jesus staggered under its weight. The Roman soldiers saw this and looked around for help. Just then, a strong looking man, Simon from Cyrene, a city of Africa, passed by. The soldiers stooped Simon and ordered him to carry the cross for Jesus. On down through eternity Simon will be remembered for literally carrying the cross of Jesus. Would you take up the cross, which is what the Bible says we should do? It won't be a wooden cross, but it might be something unusually hard and unpleasant that will cause you pain, suffering, and sacrifice. It might mean

that you simply can't have your way in something. That's what it means for us to take up our cross for Jesus.

CE 5-2 Jesus is crucified

A great crowd of people had followed Jesus through the streets and up the hill. The Hebrew name for this hill was Golgotha, which means "the place of the skull." It is said that for hundreds of years, the worst criminals had been put to death there by the horrible torture of crucifixion. The crowd was made up of Roman soldiers, chief priests, and a motley throng of those who hated Jesus, along with the curious and those who wanted to see an execution.

There were some in the crowd who loved Him very much—the women, the disciples, and others for whom He had done so much. Their hearts must have been filled with grief.

About 9 o'clock in the morning the soldiers placed Jesus on the cross between two thieves. Through all the agonizing pain, there was no complaint from Jesus, there were no curses. Jesus spoke and said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

They that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 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." Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, "He 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. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." The thieves also, which were crucified with him, said the same thing.

The Roman soldiers saw that His garment was all of one piece. They would have taken it and divided it amongst themselves for the material, but they didn't want to tear it. Instead they began to gamble to see who would get the whole thing. This had been prophesied that they would do this.

Finally, one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other answering

rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus said to him, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

The two thieves were both sinners. They had both committed terrible crimes. At first they had both cursed and blasphemed Jesus. But then, one thief believed on Jesus as his Savior and he got to go to Heaven.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple, John, standing by, He said to his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!" Then He said to the John, "Behold thy mother!" From that hour John took her into his own home

CE 5-3 The Centurion

Though it was noon and the sun was hot and bright, suddenly a thick darkness fell across the land. The light from the sun was completely gone. At three o'clock, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" That means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" God, the Father, had turned His back on Jesus as Jesus took our sins and our punishment for us.

Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, "This man calleth for Elias." One of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, "Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him."

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, "It is finished!" The sacrifice of Himself was complete. There was no more sacrifice that needed to be made ever again. And then, He yielded up the ghost. The veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. This was God's way of saying that there was no longer a need for the sacrifices that Israel had offered, no need for the priest to come into the Holy of Holies with the blood of bulls and goats.

Jesus was the one true sacrifice and He was the High Priest who brought the sacrifice of Himself before the Father's throne. Now everyone who accepts Jesus can come before the throne of God because Jesus has made the way for us.

The earth shook, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Now when the centurion who was in charge and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they were greatly afraid and said, "Truly this was the Son of God. "

(The activities below are a repeat from lesson 142. Use the same materials from that lesson)

III. Activity 1

Grade 2 through Grade 7

Materials needed:

- ☐ glue
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glitter
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ copies of page 142a
- ☐ colored paper (8.5 x 11)
- ☐ 6" x 9" envelopes
- ☐ postage stamps

Have the students make Easter cards by cutting out colored shapes (to make things like flowers, a tomb with the stone rolled away, a church, etc.), using glue and glitter (to show sunbeams, dew on flowers, radiance coming from a tomb, etc.) and coloring with crayons. Have them cut out one of the texts from page 142a to use on the inside of the card. Have them mail it to a relative, missionary, or someone chosen at random from the phonebook. If mailing to someone who might be lost, include a Gospel tract. Get stamps from the church office to mail any cards out. They may make several cards each.

IV. Activity 2

Age 3 through Grade 1

Materials needed:

- ☐ a copy of page 142b for each student
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ one of the texts from page 142a for each student
- ☐ double-stick tape
- ☐ 6" x 9" envelope for each student

Have the students color and fold page 142b in half. Have them tape one of the texts on the inside of the card. Have them send their card to a relative.