



Were You There?

Acts 2:22-24

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

A spiritual song asks, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” In our rush to _____ over who was responsible for the death of Christ, we often overlook our own _____, that Christ died for each of us. Were you there? I’ve always loved that old spiritual song, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Nothing in life reaches into our _____ as does the story of Jesus Christ dying upon the cross. So many emotions just rise up inside of us.

When I consider the _____ of the scourging and the crucifixion, I become angry and ask “how could they treat an innocent, godly person like that?” When I consider Judas, I wonder how he could _____ the Lord Jesus. When I think of Pilate, I wonder why he did what was easy and wash his _____ of my Lord. Where was his _____? Then I look at myself. When I think of my Lord, I wonder how He could _____ me enough to bear such agony for my sins. I’m utterly _____ that He loved me so much and was willing to redeem me with His blood. Yet, I’m _____ for all my sins. I’m so sorry for all the evil things I’ve said or done, all the pain I’ve caused, and all the times I’ve failed to do the right thing. Going to the cross _____ me and yet _____ me at the same time.

Our reading today comes from Acts of the Apostles 2:22-24. The four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are _____ by the Holy Spirit and describe the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus. I have _____ these four accounts from their words to give a fuller picture of what happened.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, _____ by name, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country. They compelled this man to carry His _____. When they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they _____ him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it.

Two others, who were _____, were led away to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. Jesus said, “Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do.”

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and _____ them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was _____, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “They divided my garments among them, and for My clothing they cast _____.” Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there.

Pilate also _____ an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was _____ the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. The chief priests of the Jews

said to Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man _____, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His _____ and the _____ whom he loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her to his own _____.

Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. Those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the _____ and rebuild it in three days, _____ yourself! If you're the _____ of God, come down from the cross."

So also the chief priests, and the scribes and elders, _____ him, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will _____ in Him. He trusts in God; let God _____ Him now, if He desires Him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" And the _____ who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

One of the criminals who was hanged _____ at Him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not _____ God, since you're under the same sentence of condemnation? We indeed justly, for we are receiving the due _____ of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your _____." He said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in _____."

From the sixth hour, there was _____ over all the land until the ninth hour. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you _____ me?" Some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." One of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink. The others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to _____ Him."

Then Jesus calling out with a _____ voice said, "Father, into your hands I commit my _____!" After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (that is to fulfill the Scripture), "I _____." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is _____," and he bowed his head and gave up His spirit.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was _____!" All the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned _____ beating their breasts.

Behold, the curtain, the _____ of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were _____, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with _____ and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Since it was the day of Preparation, so that the bodies would not _____ on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be _____ and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the

other who had been crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already _____, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a _____, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne _____—and his testimony is true, and he knows that he’s telling the truth—that you also may _____. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not _____ of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have _____.”

The death of Jesus on the cross was _____ any execution ever known. He was innocent, but He bore the sins of the _____. While being nailed down, He prayed for His Father to _____ his executioners because they didn’t know what they were doing. The Lord Jesus, because He was _____, could see what we cannot see and He knew what we cannot know. He knew His Father’s _____ to offer His body as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, but they didn’t understand, they didn’t know. First Corinthians 2:8 says, “None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of _____.”

When a person was executed in those days, the Romans posted the _____ against the man on the cross to _____ others not to commit the same crime. His accusers charged Him _____ with blasphemy in saying that He was the Messiah, the King of the Jews, yet they resented the sign that proclaimed Him King of the Jews. Pilate sought to _____ the Jews with the statement, but he spoke more of the _____ than he knew.

Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 where Peter speaks of the remarkable courage and inner strength of the Lord Jesus in His suffering.

There is no wonder the centurion who saw the crucifixion proclaimed, “Truly this man was _____.” Guilty men don’t act the way that Jesus acted. They don’t refuse a drink that would _____ them with the pain. They don’t ask _____ to forgive their executioners. They don’t keep _____ when being mocked. They don’t have the _____ being darkened and the _____ shaking. Jesus was indeed righteous and innocent.

Pilate said four times that he found no _____ in Jesus. Pilate offered Barabbas, hoping to _____ Jesus; but the high priests and the scribes incited the people to _____ on the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s _____; see *to that* yourselves.” All the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!”

Pilate then took Jesus and _____ Him. The soldiers twisted together a _____ of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple _____ on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him _____ in the face. Pilate came out again and said to the crowd, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find _____ guilt in Him.” Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the Man!” So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and _____ Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” My friend, Jesus was no _____ person. The Jews delivered Jesus up to Pilate, not because He was guilty, but because they were _____ of Jesus.

At the sixth hour, the sun did become dark. The sun was not darkened for a _____ minutes, as it is in an eclipse. This was different; the sun was darkened for _____ full hours. The Bible says the earth shook so violently that it _____ the rocks. Only _____ could do this and God did it.

The veil in the temple was torn from the top to the bottom. The temple veils were _____ feet long, _____ feet wide, and _____ inches thick. They were so heavy that we're told that 300 priests were needed just to move each one of them. The veil being torn or rent from top to bottom suggests that God's own _____ had done it, He tore it in two. That veil _____ the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Once the veil was _____, that place ceased to be separated or holy.

In His death, the Lord Jesus opened a _____ and _____ way to enter the holy of holies. Hebrews 9:12 says, "He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood, thus securing an _____ redemption."

Jesus died a cruel, agonizing death for you and me because of His great _____. God was in Christ at the cross _____ us redemption, forgiveness, and reconciliation. God showed his amazing and wonderful love in the _____ of the Lord Jesus upon the cross in order to reach into our hearts, to reach into our souls, and to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. He wanted His children to _____ Him. He wanted His children to be _____. He was willing to send His Son Jesus to die for us so that we could be right with Him, so that we could love Him, so that we could have a _____ with Him forever and ever. Nobody, nobody will ever love you like Jesus loves you. Nobody will ever die, and could die for you, the way Jesus died for you. Were you there when they crucified my Lord is a great _____ because if you've not seen what He did for you, I hope that one day you'll take a look. That you'll see the love and the glory and the grandeur of God's _____ for us. My friend, you were there when they crucified the Lord. Oh, not physically, but in a _____ sense. Remember that Jesus died for you to _____ you from sin and open a _____ to have a relationship with you. He died so you could be reconciled to God in a new _____, so that you could have a loving relationship with God the Father that would last _____. In that sense, you were in His heart and you were there.

God took the initiative to show His love in the hope that we would _____ to it with a total commitment of our own love. We should love the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, all our minds, and all our strength (Mark 12:30). Committed love is _____ to go to any length to comply with what the Lord desires.

We're saved by God's goodness and grace; and God's offer of salvation through the cross extends to every person. We can't _____ our salvation, but we can _____ God's conditions for salvation. God wishes everyone would respond to His love, but He knows that not everyone will. We hope and pray that you will respond to Him.

Respond to the remarkable love of God with a love of your own. That love should lead you to _____ in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, _____ of your sins, _____ Jesus before others, and be _____. Baptism into Christ is the immersion of a penitent believer in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). These things you must do if you wish to show your love for God and become a Christian.

If the cross means anything to you and if you realize that your sins were involved in sending Jesus to the cross, you won't wait even one day until you come to the Lord in love and obedience. Won't you do that today?