



January 19, 2020

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

Were You There?

An old hymn asks, “Were you there when they _____ my Lord?” In our rush to judgment over who was responsible for the death of Christ, we often overlook our own _____. Christ died for _____ of us. Were you there? I’ve always loved the 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 my soul as does the story of Jesus Christ dying upon the _____. I can’t think of it without several emotions coming up inside of me. The cross is at the _____ of what we believe.

When I think of the cruelty of the scourging and the crucifixion, I become _____ and ask, “how could they treat an innocent, good person like that?” When I think of Judas, I wonder how he could _____ the Lord Jesus. When I think of Pilate, I wonder why he gave in to the Jewish leaders and _____ his hands of my Lord. Where was his _____? Then I look at myself and my own _____. I wonder how my Lord Jesus could love me enough to bear such _____ for me. I’m very grateful He _____ me so much that He was willing to redeem me with His blood. Yet, I am ashamed for all my sins. I’m so _____ for all the evil things I’ve said and done, all the pain I’ve caused, and all the times I’ve failed to do the right thing. Remembering the cross _____ us and yet blesses us at the same time.

Our reading today comes from the Book of Acts 2:22-24. Peter is preaching on the Day of Pentecost and giving the gospel for the first time.

Yes Jesus did _____ from the dead. The four gospel accounts Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are inspired by the Holy Spirit and _____ the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus. I’ve merged these four accounts from their words to give a _____ picture of what happened.

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They compelled this man to _____ his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he _____ it, he wouldn’t drink it.

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to _____ with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. And 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 seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not _____ 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 _____ over _____ him _____ there.

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Pilate wrote an inscription and put it on the cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews _____ this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not 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."

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene, were there. And when Jesus saw his mother 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!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own _____.

Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on His 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, save yourself! If you're the Son of God, come down from the cross."

So the chief priests, with 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 deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" The robbers who were crucified with him _____ reviled him in the same way. Those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

One of the criminals who was hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not _____ God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed _____, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done _____ wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your _____." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, _____ you will be with me in Paradise."

Now 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?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling (for) Elijah." One of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my _____!" After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 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 home beating their breasts. Behold, the curtain of the _____ 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 _____ were raised, 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, and 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 _____ might be broken 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 _____—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may _____. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his _____ will be broken.” Again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have _____.”

The death of Jesus was _____ any execution ever known. He was innocent but bore the _____ of the guilty. While being nailed down, He _____ for His Father to _____ his executioners, because they didn’t know what they were doing. The Lord Jesus, because He was Divine, could see what we cannot see and know what we cannot know. The Father planned to _____ His body as a sacrifice for their sins, but they didn’t realize it. First Corinthians 2:8 says, “None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had (known), they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

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

Peter speaks of the remarkable courage and _____ strength of the Lord Jesus in His suffering. “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an _____, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his _____. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges _____. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might _____ to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like _____, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls” (1 Peter 2:21-25).

There’s no wonder the centurion who saw to 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 help them with the _____. They don’t ask God to forgive their executioners. They don’t keep _____ when being mocked. They don’t have the sun darkened and the earth shaking when they’re being crucified. Jesus was indeed, righteous and innocent.

Pilate said more than once that he found no _____ in Jesus. Pilate offered Barabbas, hoping to _____ Jesus; but the high priests and scribes _____ the people to insist on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Pilate _____ his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.” And 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 crown of _____ 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 them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no _____ 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 crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." Jesus was no ordinary person. The Jews delivered Jesus up to Pilate, not because He was guilty but because they were _____ of Jesus.

At the sixth hour the _____ became dark. The sun was not darkened for a _____ minutes, as it would be in an eclipse. This was different; the sun was darkened for three _____ hours. The earth _____ so violently that it split the rocks. God did this.

The veil of the temple was _____ from top to bottom. The veils were 60 feet long, 30 feet wide, and four inches thick. They were so heavy they needed 300 priests to _____ each one. The Veil being torn from top to bottom means that God's own _____ had torn it in two. That veil _____ the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Once the veil was torn, that place _____ to be separated or holy.

By dying, the Lord Jesus _____ a new and living way for us to enter the holy of holies. Hebrews 9:12 says, "He entered _____ for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his _____ blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Jesus died an agonizing death for you and for me because of His great _____. God was in Christ at the _____ offering us redemption, offering us forgiveness, offering us reconciliation. God showed this amazing wonderful love in the _____ of our Lord Jesus upon the cross in order to _____ into our hearts and souls, and to bring us back into a _____ relationship with Himself. No one, will ever _____ you like Jesus Christ. No one will ever _____ for you like that.

My friend, you were there when they crucified the Lord. Oh, no, you weren't there physically; but yes, you were there _____. Remember: Jesus died for you to _____ you from sin and to begin a relationship with you. He died so that you and I could be reconciled to God in a _____ covenant, so that you could have a loving relationship with God that would last _____. Yes, you were in His heart then; and you're in His heart now.

God took the initiative to show His love for us all, on the cross, hoping that we would _____ with a total commitment of our love. We should love the Lord our God with all our hearts, 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 _____, and His offer of salvation extends to _____ person. We can't _____ our salvation, but we can _____ God's conditions for salvation. God wishes everyone would respond to His _____.

You respond to that remarkable love of God with a love of your _____. That love leads you to _____ in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, to _____ of your sins, to _____ Jesus, before others, and to be _____. Baptism into Christ is the immersion of a penitent believer in _____ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). You must do this if you wish to _____ your love for God and become a Christian. If the cross means anything to you and if you realize 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?