

## Seventh Story of Creation to Culmination: Jesus' Death

### First Third:

Express joy in Christ together

Vision 100

Questions:

How are you doing?

How did you obey last week's teaching?

Who are you witnessing to?

Who has come to faith? Are they witnessing to those in their circle?

Who are you training to become a reproducing disciple? Are they training others?

### Second Third:

Pray briefly for God to open up His message to us.

DO stick to the story.

DON'T talk about politics; DON'T chase rabbit trails; DON'T focus on minor points in the passage.

DON'T talk about religion. DON'T dominate the conversation.

*This is the true story of the death of Jesus, as told by one of His disciples named John.*

**John 18:1** [Jesus] went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." <sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" <sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. . . .

<sup>29</sup> [The Roman Governor] Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup> They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup> This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. . . .

<sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him." <sup>39</sup> But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

**19:1** Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. <sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." <sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" <sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." <sup>7</sup> The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." <sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. <sup>9</sup> He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that

I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."<sup>13</sup> So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat. . . . He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"<sup>15</sup> They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."<sup>16</sup> So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,<sup>17</sup> and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.<sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.<sup>19</sup> Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." . . .

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided 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,<sup>24</sup> 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 lots." So the soldiers did these things. . . .

*(At this time, another disciple, Matthew, tells us that Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46)*

<sup>28</sup> After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. . . .

<sup>33</sup> [The soldiers] saw that [Jesus] was already dead. . . .<sup>34</sup> One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.<sup>35</sup> He who saw it has borne witness--his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth--that you also may believe.

*This is a true story from the Bible.*

Have someone read the story, and then another person tell it.

What does this story tell us about God? About His character? About His promises? Did God plan these events in advance? Remember the promise to Eve in the Garden, the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the promise to David, and the promises given through the prophet Isaiah. Recall also the verse we read from Isaiah a few weeks ago, written about 700 years before the time of Jesus:

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Consider also a statement from the book of Hebrews, written after the crucifixion: Hebrews 9:28:  
"Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people."

What does this story tell us about Jesus? Is He surprised by what happens? Why does He not defend Himself before Pilate? Why does He say, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" What does He mean when He says, "It is finished"? Did Jesus really die?

What does this story tell us about men? About Peter? About the Jewish leaders? About the people? About Pilate?

Who do you identify with in this story?

Are there sins to avoid? Promises to claim? Examples to follow? Commands to obey?

Last Third:

Practice telling the story

What will you do differently this week because of this story?

Who will you witness to or share this story with next week?