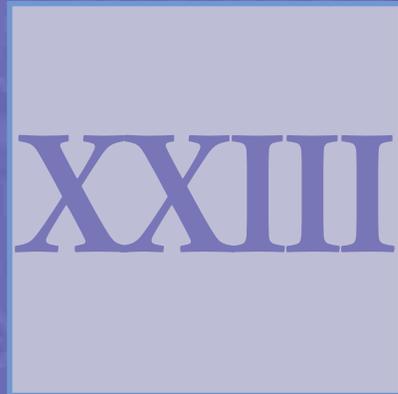
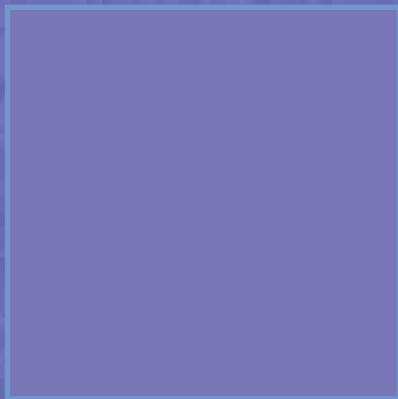


C H A P T E R



1. Please read the chapter at least twice or listen to it read to you using the YouVersion Bible app. This is a chapter that contains the culmination of Jesus' ministry, but not the end of God's plan. Jesus willingly submitted because of His great love for mankind.
2. In Luke 22:66, we read of Jesus being led to stand trial before the council. This council was known as the Sanhedrin. They were a ruling body of Jewish men made up of 70 men: elders, the chief priest, and teachers of the law. Within the Jewish community their verdicts were the final say in any matter brought to their attention. Jesus had been arrested and taken to the house of the high priest to be questioned and later, he stood before the Sanhedrin for more questions. At daybreak, the Sanhedrin were satisfied there was no more need for questions. What charge was Jesus being accused and declared guilty of as he stood before this council? Read Luke 22:66-71.
3. Because the Sanhedrin did not have the power to execute, they must now get the Roman rulers to do their dirty work for them. Read Luke 23:1, where is Jesus taken now that the Sanhedrin have rendered their verdict?
4. Jesus had been accused and found guilty of blasphemy by the Sanhedrin, according to Luke 23:2. What is the three-fold charge now that Jesus is standing in a Roman court?
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5. Pilate was the Roman governor and supreme judge in the province of Judea. He had many times done things that infuriated the Jewish leaders. Once he took money from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct. Despite their dislike for him, the Jewish leaders needed him to render a verdict. He held the authority, granted by the Roman government, to execute a criminal. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" How did Jesus answer this Roman leader?
6. Because of their well worded accusation against Jesus, Pilate must be very careful not to appear unconcerned about this matter. Treason against Rome was not tolerated. Pilate would not want a delegation of angry Jewish leaders going to Rome with a complaint that he had not thoroughly investigated the matter. What was Pilate's opinion of Jesus after questioning him?
7. I believe we can all agree, Pilate is in a difficult position. He can find no reason to convict Jesus, but he does not want to stir up the Sanhedrin. Pilate is not a Jesus follower. It is not out of love for Jesus that he does not want to put him to death. Pilate appears to be a man at this point who is struggling with choosing to act justly or give in to the pressure of evil men. Have you ever found yourself in a situation that felt like a "no win" situation?
How did you decide what to do?
Looking back, do you wish you had handled things differently?
If so, what has changed?
8. In Luke 23:5, we see the Jewish leaders did not want Jesus released. What was their next claim against Jesus?
9. Often, when a person does not want to make a decision, they are very relieved to find a loophole. What was Pilate's loophole that let him excuse himself from dealing with Jesus and these Jewish leaders?

10. Jesus must have been getting exhausted; he has been up all night.
 - He had stood before the high priest in his home and been questioned.
 - Next, he had stood trial before the Sanhedrin.
 - Then he was taken before Pilate and to be questioned.
 - Then Jesus was taken to stand before Herod.

How did Herod feel about hearing this case?
Did you notice what Herod had hoped would happen?
11. List some of the events that happened to Jesus as he stood before Herod.
12. Herod finally grew tired of this and ordered Jesus taken back to Pilate. What interesting fact did you learn from Luke 23:12?
13. Once again Pilate is faced with the problem of what to do with Jesus. Pilate tells the Jewish leaders that Jesus had been questioned by himself and Herod as well, neither had found anything to justify the death penalty. But to pacify these wicked men, what did Pilate offer to do?
14. Read John 19:1-16 and Matthew 27:15-26; what other facts and events did you see in these two accounts that were not mentioned in Luke 23?
15. After all you have seen so far, what can be said of the character of Pilate?
16. Barabbas was a prisoner awaiting punishment; what crimes was he guilty of committing?
17. The crowds had been stirred up by these religious leaders. They were yelling for the release of the prisoner, Barabbas. Pilate is confused by such a request; notice what he said in verses 14-16 and 22. His fear of man is making him choose between doing what he knows is right and appeasing the crowd. Read Proverbs 29:25, what does the fear of man prove to be?
18. It is easy to fall into the trap of fearing what others might think or do. Read Hebrews 13:6 and 2 Timothy 1:7, what is the encouragement for believers?
19. Sadly, Luke tells us, their shouts prevailed, and Pilate gave into their demands. Have you ever given in to something you knew was wrong, because of peer pressure? How did you feel afterwards?
Did those who coerced you into doing whatever it was, stay with you to comfort you in your sorrow?
20. The cost of going against the crowd was too great and Pilate gave in. I believe we all have done this to some degree. When we do, we can repent and seek forgiveness. Did you read anything about Pilate repenting?
Read Matthew 27:24-26, what did Pilate do?
21. Just because Pilate says these words “I am innocent of this man’s blood; it is your responsibility!” Does that make it so?
People often say, “It’s not my fault.” But the truth is they could have made a different choice, but they simply did not have the strength of character. Read Exodus 23:7, Proverbs 24:11-12, and Proverbs 6:16-17. What is God’s attitude toward this type of action?

32. A large number of men and women followed as Jesus was led away to be crucified. Many wept as they witnessed the events unfolding before them. Jesus tells them it is not for me you need to be weeping. Jesus knew this was always God's plan for redemption. He warned them of coming events that would bring unspeakable suffering for the Israelites. Who should they weep for?
33. Two other men are mentioned in Luke 23:32, who are these men? What facts do you learn about them?
34. What were Jesus first words as he hung on the cross? Luke 23:34
35. Crucifixion is meant to be a very slow and cruel public event. Jesus' crucifixion would be no different. What were the soldiers doing as Jesus hung on the cross that day?
36. What were the religious rulers doing as they stood before Jesus watching him die?
37. It was customary to place a sign above the head of the one being crucified, stating their crime as a warning to others and statement against them. Since Jesus had not been found guilty his sign was another attempt by the soldiers to mock him. What did the plaque above Jesus' head say?
38. Is this a new name for Jesus?
Read Matthew 2:2, who referred to Jesus by this name at his birth?
39. Jesus not only endured the jeers of the crowd, but one of the prisoners also had taunting things to say. What did this prisoner say to Jesus?
40. Such a beautiful picture of grace was seen on the cross that day. The fate of these criminals had been set. Yet one of them mocked and rejected even this last opportunity to repent. The other acknowledged the innocence of Jesus and his power to save. What promise did Jesus make to reassure this sinner that grace was available and sufficient?
41. According to Luke 23:44, what time of day was it?
42. What foreboding event of nature took place at this time?
43. Luke 23:45 tells us that the temple curtain which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn in two. Read Matthew 27:51 for a bit more detail. What was unusual about this tearing of the curtain?
44. Do you recall what was behind this curtain?
If not, read Exodus 26:31-34; 40:20-21.

The high priest was the only person previously allowed to enter the Most Holy Place. He entered once per year on the Day of Atonement, with blood offering for the sins of the people. What do you believe was the significance of the curtain being torn when Jesus died?

45. Now let's read Hebrews 10:1-10, what did you learn about sacrifices and offerings? According to Hebrews 10:10, how did the sacrifice of Jesus differ from all other sacrifices?

46. What did Jesus say in Luke 23:46?

47. **Bonus points** if you look up all seven of Jesus final statements on the cross and write them below.

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:43

John 19:26-27

Matthew 27:46

John 19:28

John 19:30

Luke 23:46

48. Read John 10:14-15, how does Jesus describe himself in these verses?

49. Read John 10:18, what did Jesus say about his life and death?

50. Why is knowing it was Jesus' will to lay down his life for us such a comfort? Read John 10:18 one more time.

51. One thing about sacrificial love, it can be a witness all on its own, it needs no one to point it out. What did the centurion say about what he had seen?

52. Are you living in such a way that your life reflects grace and forgiveness without words?

Are you quick to overlook offenses?

What areas would you like to tweak so others will see Jesus in you?

53. It would soon be evening, and the Sabbath was quickly approaching. Now that Jesus had died, it was imperative to get the body down and buried before the Sabbath began. Who are we introduced to in Luke 23:50?

What did you learn about this man?

54. Moses law stated Passover was a holy day and no work was to be done on this day. Jesus body must be quickly taken down and buried. Where were all the women who had been with Jesus? What do you believe they were planning to do as one final expression of love?

55. Think back over all we have seen in this chapter, what is the Lord speaking to your heart? Please do not pass over this question and leave it blank. We do not want to be merely hearers of God's word. We want to be changed by it and obedient to it; that will take careful, personal contemplation.

Biblical References

Day Two

Question 14

John 19:1-16 (NIV) Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. ⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” ¹¹Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹²From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. ¹⁶Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Matthew 27:15-26 (NIV) Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd.

¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.” ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. ²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” ²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Question 17

Proverbs 29:25 (NIV) Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Question 18

Hebrews 13:6 (NIV) So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Day Three

Question 20

Matthew 27:24-26 (NIV) When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Question 21

Exodus 23:7 (NIV) Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty.

Proverbs 24:11-12 (NIV) Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. ¹² If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?

Proverbs 6:16-17 (NIV) There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

Question 23

1 Corinthians 15:3 (NIV) For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Question 24

1 John 3:16 (NIV) This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us

Question 27

Romans 12:1-21 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. ⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Question 28

Matthew 27:26 (NIV) Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15:15 (NIV) Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

John 19:1 (NIV) Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

Question 29

Micah 6:8 (NIV) He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Day Four

Question 38

Matthew 2:2 (NIV) ... "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Question 43

Matthew 27:51 (NIV) At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split

Question 44

Exodus 26:31-34 (NIV) "Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim woven into it by a skilled worker. ³² Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. ³³ Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. ³⁴ Put the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law in the Most Holy Place.

Exodus 40:20-21 (NIV) He took the tablets of the covenant law and placed them in the ark, attached the poles to the ark and put the atonement cover over it. ²¹ Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the ark of the covenant law, as the Lord commanded him.

Day Five

Question 45

Hebrews 10:1-10 (NIV) The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. ⁴ It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” ⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Question 48

John 10:14-15 (NIV) *“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Question 49

John 10:18 (NIV) *“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”*

