

GOOD FRIDAY J - JESUS

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

N Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kedron valley.

There was a garden there and he went into it with his disciples. Judas the traitor knew the place well since Jesus had often met his disciples there and he brought the cohort to this place together with a detachment of guards sent by the chief priests and the Pharisees, all with lanterns and torches and weapons. Knowing everything that was going to happen to him, Jesus then came forward and said,

J Who are you looking for?

C Jesus the Nazarene.

J I am he.

N Now Judas the traitor was standing among them . When Jesus said “I am he “, they moved back and fell to the ground. He asked them a second time.

J Who are you looking for?

C Jesus the Nazarene.

J I have told you I am he. If I am the one you are looking for, let these others go. This was to fulfil the words he had spoken: “Not one of those you gave me have I lost.”

N Simon Peter who carried a sword, drew it and wounded the High priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. Jesus spoke to Peter,

J Put the sword back in its scabbard: am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given to me?

N The cohort and its captain and the Jewish guards seized Jesus and bound him. They took him first to Annas, because Annas was the father- in- law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was

Caiaphas who had suggested to the Jews, “ It is better for one man to die for the people.”

Simon Peter, with another disciple followed Jesus.

This disciple who was known to the high priest, went with Jesus into the High priest’s palace, but Peter stayed outside the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who was keeping the door and brought Peter in. This woman spoke to Peter.

C Aren’t you another of that man’s disciples?

O. I am not.

N Now it was cold and the servants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were standing there warming themselves; so Peter stood there too warming himself with them. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus responded,

J I have spoken openly for all the world to hear: I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple where all the Jews meet together. I have said nothing in secret. But why ask me? Ask my hearers what I taught. They know what I did.

N At these words, one of the guards standing by gave Jesus a slap in the face.

O Is that the way to answer a high priest?

J If there is something wrong in what I said then point it out. But if there is no offense in it why do you strike me?

N Then Annas sent him, still bound to Caiaphas, the high priest. As Simon Peter stood there warming himself someone said to him,

O Aren’t you one of his disciples? He denied it saying

J I am not.

N One of the high priest's servants, a relation of the man whose ear Peter had cut off said

O Didn't I see you in the garden with him?

N Again Peter denied it and at once a cock crew.

They led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. It was now morning. They did not go into the Praetorium themselves or they would have been defiled and unable to eat the Passover. So Pilate came outside to them.

O What charge do you bring against this man?

C If he were not a criminal we should not be handing him over to you.

O Take him yourselves and try him by your own law.

C We are not allowed to put a man to death.

N This was to fulfil the words Jesus had spoken indicating the way he was going to die.

So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him.

O Are you the king of the Jews?

J Do you ask this of your own accord or have others spoken to you about me?

N Pilate replied.

O Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: What have you done?

J Mine is not a kingdom of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my friends would have fought to prevent me being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.

O So you are a king then?

J It is you who say I am. Yes, I am a king. I was born for this. I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth, and all who are on the side of truth, listen to my voice.

O Truth What is that?

N And with that Pilate went out again to the Jews.

O I find no case against him. But according to a custom of yours, I should release one prisoner at the Passover; would you like me then to release the king of the Jews?

N At this they shouted;

C Not this man, but Barabbas.

N Barabbas was a brigand.

N Pilate then had Jesus taken away and scourged. After this the soldiers twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on his head and dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and saying, as they slapped him in the face,

O Hail king of the Jews!

N Pilate came outside and said to them,

O Look I am going to bring him out to you to let you see that I find no case.

N Jesus then came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said

O Here is the man.

N When they saw him the chief priests and the guards shouted,

C Crucify him! Crucify him!

N Pilate said

O Take him yourselves and crucify him. I can find no case against him.

N The Jews replied,

C We have a law and according to the law he ought to die, because he has claimed to be the son of God.

N When Pilate heard them say this his fears increased. Re entering the Praetorium he said to Jesus,

O Where do you come from?

N But Jesus made no answer.

O Are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have the power to release you and I have the power to crucify you?

J You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above; that is why the one who handed me over to you has the greatest guilt.

N From that moment Pilate was anxious to set him free but the Jews shouted

C If you set him free you are no friend of Caesars; anyone who makes himself king is defying Caesar.

N Hearing these words, Pilate had Jesus brought out and seated himself on the chair of judgement at a place called the Pavement , in Hebrew Gabbatha. It was Passover preparation day about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews,

O Here is your king .

C Take him away. take him away, Take him away, Crucify him.

O Do you want me to crucify your King?

N The chief priests answered

C We have no king but Caesar.

N So in the end Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

They took charge of Jesus and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed to the cross. It ran- Jesus the Nazarene king of the Jews. This notice was read by many of the Jews, because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city and writing was in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. So the chief priests said to Pilate,

C You should not write king of the Jews but this man said "I am the king of the jews'

N Pilate answered,

O What I have written, I have written.

N When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus, they took his clothing and divided into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem so they said to each other,

C Instead of tearing it, let's throw die to decide who is to have it.

N In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled; They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes. This is exactly what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother,

J Woman here is your son.

N Then to the disciple he said,

J This is your mother.

N And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home. After this Jesus knew that everything had now been complete and to fulfil the scriptures perfectly he said,

J I am thirsty,

N A jar full of vinegar stood there so putting a sponge soaked in vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said,

J It is accomplished.

And bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

N PLEASE KNEEL – (PAUSE FOR A SHORT TIME) **Readers remain standing**

PLEASE SIT

N It was preparation day and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath since this was a day of special solemnity, the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently when they came to Jesus they saw that he was already dead and so instead of breaking his legs, one of them soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there poured out blood and water.

This is the evidence of one who saw it- trustworthy evidence and he knows he speaks the truth and he gives it so that you may believe as well. Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: Not one of his bones shall be broken, and in another place scripture says; They will look on the one they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea who was a disciple of Jesus though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came, as well as the one who had first come to Jesus at night time and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body and

wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths following the Jewish burial custom.

At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was near they laid Jesus there.