



July 2

Passage: **Matthew 27:32-54**

Matthew 27 is one of the most pivotal chapters in all of the Bible. Matthew has been leading us to this very point all along. Here we find the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

So, as we approach such an important, heartbreaking, but ultimately life-giving chapter, pray. Pray the Lord would continue to grow you as we make our way through this gospel.

READ & DIG. Read **Matthew 27:32-54** (underline anything that sticks out to you)

CRUCIFIXION

As you read Verses 32-44, you can see the mockery that Jesus is enduring while he is being taken to Golgotha to be crucified. Simon of Cyrene steps in to take his cross and carry it for him, because he is too weak to carry the cross from the beatings he has taken. The Roman crucifixion was the most brutal and humiliating way to execute a criminal. Maybe you're thinking "Wait.... why is Jesus being crucified? This is the same man that has taught his followers to love God with all their heart and love their neighbor. He has healed the sick and made the lame to walk. What did he do to deserve this punishment?" That's the heartbreaking yet hope-giving part of this text. He doesn't deserve this punishment. He is being murdered by the Romans because he is ushering in a new kingdom. They think it is a political kingdom and are threatened by this, but truly it is a heavenly kingdom. This is what Matthew has been showing all throughout his gospel. Jesus is taking the place of his people so He can die the death they deserve. He bears the weight and penalty of sin, so they can be members of God's kingdom. We need to realize that in the crucifixion of Jesus, there is more going on than what meets the human eye. While this is an unjust murder by the Roman government, this has cosmic realities for all of mankind. This is the Son of God, a member of the Trinity, being punished for sin that he didn't commit for sinners who can't pay for their own sin. This is the ultimate picture of grace.

THE DEATH OF JESUS

Now that we know why Jesus is being crucified and what is happening in his crucifixion, let's take a look at Verses 45-54. Jesus is on the cross and they are approaching the sixth hour and darkness covers all of the earth. As Jesus is approaching his death, he cries out to God the Father and says, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus is mocked for saying this and then ultimately gives up his spirit and dies. When this happens, we see the curtain in the temple tear from top to bottom. You may be thinking, "Big whoop. It's a curtain!" Well this isn't just any curtain. It's the curtain between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. With it tearing, this shows that Jesus death has torn down the separation between God and man. That's the good news of Jesus' death on the cross. He has made it possible for you and me to have a relationship with the Father. We can now have a personal, real-time relationship with our Lord because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Apply & GO

- Reflect on and understand what is happening in the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Let this unmerited act of mercy and grace push you to love the Lord more.
- Enjoy the relationship you can now have with the Lord because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.