

## Questions / Answers

1. What did the people do and shout as Jesus rode into Jerusalem?  
*They threw down their clothes and palm branches. "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*
2. What did the bread and wine symbolise?  
*The body of Jesus given for them. The blood of Jesus shed for them.*
3. What did Judas do?  
*He told the Chief Priests where they could arrest Jesus. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss.*
4. What did Peter do?  
*He denied 3 times that he was a disciple of Jesus.*
5. What did the High Priest say Jesus had done to be punished by death?  
*He said that he was the Son of God.*
6. What did Pilate do?  
*He washed his hands, but he condemned Jesus to be crucified.*
7. What did one of the thieves ask Jesus?  
*To remember him when he comes to set up his kingdom.*
8. What happened when Jesus died?  
*There was a great earthquake. The veil in the Temple was torn in two.*
9. Why didn't the soldiers break the legs of Jesus?  
*Because he was already dead.*
10. Where was Jesus buried?  
*In the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.*

## Memory verses

Philippians 2:7 - 8;      Romans 5:8;      John 3:16

## Discussion

Peter and Judas both did wrong. How did Judas react? What did he do? (Matthew 27:3—5). How did Peter react? (Luke 22:62) What did Peter become? (2 Peter 2:1) What lessons can we learn from these reactions?

## Writing

What were the priests in the Temple doing when Jesus died? How was this a picture of how Jesus brings us salvation and forgiveness of our sins?

# CBM Senior Lessons

## Lesson 36 The death of Jesus



**READING** Mark 11:7—11; Mark chapters 14 and 15

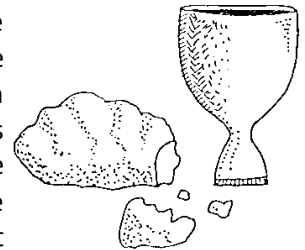
### LESSON

During the last week of his life Jesus went to Jerusalem. He knew that the Pharisees and chief priests would crucify him, but he knew that it was God's will. Jesus rode on an ass into Jerusalem. He was met by crowds of people. They made a carpet of palm branches and clothes for him to ride over, and they shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!" The people wanted Jesus to be their King and save them from the Romans.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem he wept, because he knew that in a few days these people would be shouting for him to be crucified. He knew that God would punish them for killing him and would scatter them throughout the world.

The chief Priests plotted to kill Jesus. They were afraid to arrest Jesus in front of the people who followed him. Judas Iscariot met the chief priests and agreed to betray him for 30 pieces of silver. They plotted together to arrest Jesus in secret.

It was Passover time, so Jesus and his disciples ate the traditional Passover meal in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. This last supper which Jesus shared with his disciples was a very special meal. Afterwards, Jesus broke bread and handed it to each of the disciples. He told them it was a symbol of his body which would be given for them. Then he poured out wine and passed it round. He told them it was a symbol of his blood which would be poured out for them. Jesus told his disciples to eat bread and drink wine in this way to remember his sacrifice. This important service, which Jesus began at the last supper, is kept by true Christians every week.



Judas went to the Chief Priests and told them that Jesus was going to the Garden of Gethsemane. They could arrest him secretly there. The Chief Priests paid Judas 30 pieces of silver for betraying Jesus.

After the last supper Jesus took the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. He prayed to God for strength. He prayed so hard that he sweated 'as it were great drops of blood'. It was not easy for Jesus to do God's will, but he loved God so much that he did obey Him. Then Judas came with the soldiers and priests. Judas kissed Jesus to show the soldiers who to arrest. Jesus went with them without a struggle. All the disciples ran away, except Peter and John who followed Jesus at a distance. Jesus was taken to the house of the High Priest. Peter and John went in after them.

At the last supper Jesus had told Peter that he would betray him three times before the cock crowed that night. But Peter did not believe him. In the courtyard of the High priest, Peter was asked three times if he was one of Jesus' disciples. Each time he said he was not. Then the cock crowed and Jesus turned to look at Peter. Peter remembered what Jesus had said, and he went out and wept bitterly.

The High Priest called many false witnesses, but they could not agree. According to the law, Jesus should then have been released. But the High Priest was determined he must die. When Jesus admitted that he was the Son of God, the High Priest said that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy - speaking against God. Under Jewish law the punishment for blasphemy was death. In fact, Jesus was not blaspheming against God. He was telling the truth. But the High Priest said that Jesus must die. He sent Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, because only Pilate could approve the death sentence.



After Pilate had questioned Jesus, he knew that he was innocent. He also realised that the priests were Jesus' enemies and wanted him to be killed. Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. The Chief Priests and the people shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate eventually agreed that Jesus should be crucified. But he washed his hands in front of the Jews to show that he did not want to be responsible for Jesus' death. Pilate said, "I am innocent of this man's blood." The Jews answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children." This came to pass when God punished the

Jews. 40 years later the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews were scattered throughout the world.

The Roman soldiers dressed Jesus in a purple robe and placed a crown of thorns on his head. They mocked him by calling him the King of the Jews. They spat on him and hit him.

The prisoners had to carry their own cross to the place where they would be crucified. Jesus was very weak from the scourging. He had lost a lot of blood. He could not carry his cross alone. The Roman soldiers made a man, who was going along the road, carry the cross with Jesus.

Crucifixion was a very cruel and terrible way of killing someone. The prisoners' hands and feet were nailed to the cross and they hung there until they died. When the soldiers were nailing Jesus to the cross, he prayed to God. "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing." The soldiers did not realise what a terrible thing they were doing, crucifying the Son of God.

Two thieves were crucified with Jesus. The thieves cursed Jesus. But later one of them said, "We are criminals. We deserve to be punished. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he asked Jesus to remember him, when Jesus comes to set up his kingdom. Jesus promised that the thief will be in the kingdom.

Jesus saw a group of people standing nearby. Among them was his mother and John, his disciple. Jesus asked John to take care of his mother, and he told Mary to think of John as her son.

The crowds jeered and mocked Jesus. The rulers shouted that if he was really the Son of God he would come down from the cross. For three hours the sun stopped shining and darkness came over the whole land. As Jesus was dying he called out to God, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" But Jesus kept hold of his faith, and at the end he gave his life into the hands of God. When Jesus died there was a great earthquake and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

As Jesus died, the priests were killing the lambs for the Passover Feast. The blood of the Passover lamb brought salvation from death to the Israelites in the time of Moses. Jesus is like our Passover lamb. His blood, shed on the cross, brings us forgiveness of sins and the hope of everlasting life in God's Kingdom on earth.

The Jewish rulers asked Pilate to make sure that the crucified men were dead by that evening, before the Passover started. Pilate sent soldiers to make sure that they were dead. The soldiers broke the legs of the thieves so that they would die quickly. But Jesus was dead already, so his legs were not broken. One of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus' side to make sure that he was dead.

Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man who was a secret follower of Jesus. Joseph went to Pontius Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, to bury it. Jesus' body was taken down from the cross. It was wrapped in linen bandages with sweet smelling spices. Then it was laid in Joseph's new tomb in a garden nearby.