

Invite. Mentor. Equip. Serve.

Good Friday

Narrator: Peter and Pilate

Primary Scriptures: Luke 22, 23

Story Summary: Betrayal of Jesus, trials of Jesus, death of Jesus

Location: Jerusalem

Time: Circa 30 AD

Why is Good Friday referred to as “good”? What the Jewish authorities and Romans did to Jesus was definitely not good (see Matthew chapters 26-27). However, the results of Christ’s death are very good! Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” First Peter 3:18 tells us, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.”

The events of that day should be ever on our minds because the death of Christ on the cross—along with His bodily resurrection—is the paramount event of the Christian faith.

Throughout history, Pilate has been either vilified or exonerated of his actions that resulted in the crucifixion of Jesus. He was no doubt a violent man, but was he evil or just doing his job as a Roman official? The Jewish leaders knew they could possibly end Pilate’s career by causing a big enough riot, so his desire both to keep his position and to do a good job were sufficient to cause him to end the life of Jesus.

It is tempting to think of the crucifixion of Jesus as a special event. In fact, crucifixion was a common capital punishment of the Romans, Persians, Carthaginians, and other cultures, often used to punish political or religious agitators, pirates and slaves. As an example, in the aftermath of the slave rebellion led by Spartacus, about 11,000 rebelling slaves were crucified by the Roman Generals Crassus and Pompey.

One reason Judas betrayed Jesus was to receive money. What are some reasons that might cause you to betray a friend or relative?

Peter was sure he would not deny Jesus under any circumstance, yet the question of a mere servant girl caused him to angrily deny Jesus. Have you ever gotten scared far out of proportion to the actual danger?

The guards mocking Jesus did so without fear because they were in power and they were harming a powerless person. How can you keep from doing the same sort of thing to powerless people?