

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 39

In the previous lesson, a comparison was made between the first Adam in the Garden of Eden, and the second Adam in the Garden of Gethsemane. The first Adam chose to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thus rejecting God's command not to do so. In contrast, Jesus, the second Adam, prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

While Jesus knew how great His suffering would be, He nevertheless chose to humble Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8) to make a full and just atonement for the sins of His people. The first Adam served his own interests and incurred God's judgment of death. The second Adam served the interests of His Heavenly Father, conquered death and obtained eternal life for those who would place their faith in Him.

The Scripture declares, "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ, all will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

Before beginning to study, thank Jesus that He did not shrink back from His test in Gethsemane. Rather, He was willing to be "...pierced for our transgressions, and crushed for our iniquities; he incurred the punishment that brought us peace, and [accepted] the wounds by which we would be healed. For indeed: we all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has

turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

1. Read Luke 23:1-25.
 - A. What three charges were leveled against Jesus by the whole assembly?

 - B. Read Luke 20:21-25; Zechariah 9:9 and John 13:12-17. Were the accusations valid? Please explain.

 - C. What was Herod’s motive for wanting to see Jesus?

 - D. Describe Herod’s treatment of Jesus.

 - E. After Herod returned Jesus to Pilate, what did Pilate want to do with Jesus? Why?

- F. Why do you think Pilate succumbed to the demands of the people to crucify rather than release Jesus?
- G. Read Luke 23:18-19 and 23-24. Since crucifixion was the most horrific means of capital punishment, reserved for only the most hardened criminal, what irony do you see in the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus?

The Crucifixion of Jesus

2. From Luke 23:24, what is so poignant and compelling about Jesus' statement: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"?

3. Contrast the attitude toward and reaction to Jesus of the two criminals who were also being crucified.

4. How does Jesus respond to them?

5. Referring to Luke 23:44-49:
 - A. Describe the physical setting.

 - B. What happens to the curtain of the temple? What does this symbolize?

 - C. What are the final words that Jesus uttered from the cross?

 - D. After Jesus breathed His last, what is the reaction of
 - (1) the centurion?

 - (2) the crowd who had gathered to watch?

- (3) those who knew and loved Jesus, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee?

Jesus' Burial

6. Read Luke 23:50-56.
- A. To which group did Joseph of Arimathea belong?
 - B. Describe Joseph's character.
 - C. How had he participated in the deliberations of the Council?
 - D. What was Joseph awaiting?
 - E. What steps does he take regarding Jesus' body?
 - F. What else does this suggest about his character?

G. From verses 55-56, describe the actions of the women from Galilee.

H. What do their actions suggest about them?