### Matthew

## Chapter 27

1Then the next morning, all the Chief Priests and peoples’ elders held a meeting to discuss ways to have Jesus put to death. 2So they bound him and took him to be handed over to Governor Pilate.  
  
3It was then that Judas (who had betrayed [Jesus]) realized that he was condemned. So, feeling deeply regretful about what he’d done, he tried to return the 30 silver [coins] to the Chief Priests and elders, 4saying:  
  
 ‘I sinned when I betrayed righteous blood.’  
  
But they replied:  
  
 ‘What’s that to us? That’s your problem!’  
  
5So at that, he threw the silver into the Temple and left… And then he went out and hung himself.  
  
6Well, the chief priest then [picked up] the silver coins and said:  
  
 ‘It isn’t legal for us to put these [coins] in the sacred treasury, because they’re the price of blood.’  
  
7So after discussing it further, they decided to use them to purchase the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. 8And to this day, that field has been called, ‘The Field of Blood.’  
  
9It was then that the words of the Prophet were fulfilled that he would take the 30 pieces of silver (which was the price that was put on a man, as was set by the sons of IsraEl) 10and use them to pay for the field of the potters, as Jehovah had said. [Zechariah 11:12-13]  
  
11Next, they brought Jesus and stood him before the governor, who asked him:  
  
 ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’  
  
And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘You’re saying it yourself.’  
  
12However, when the Chief Priests and elders were accusing him, he didn’t say anything.  
  
13Then Pilate asked:  
  
 ‘Don’t you hear all the things that they’re saying against you?’  
  
14But [Jesus] wouldn’t answer him – he didn’t say a word – and that really got the governor wondering.  
  
15Now, it was the governor’s custom to release whichever prisoner the crowd wanted during these festivals. 16And at that time, they were holding a particularly notorious criminal called BarAbbas.  
17So when the people gathered before him, Pilate asked:  
  
 ‘Which do you want me to release to you, BarAbbas or Jesus… The so-called Anointed One?’  
  
18Well, [Pilate] knew that the only reason they had bound [Jesus] over, was because they were jealous of him. 19Also, while he was sitting on his judgment seat, [Pilate’s] wife had sent [a message] to him, saying:  
  
 ‘Don’t have anything to do with that righteous man, because I suffered a lot in a dream today over him.’  
  
20However, the Chief Priests and elders persuaded the crowd to ask for BarAbbas, and to demand to have Jesus destroyed. 21So when the governor asked which of the two they wanted released, everyone shouted:  
  
 ‘BarAbbas!’  
  
22And when Pilate asked:  
  
 ‘Then, what should I do with this Jesus, the so-called Anointed One?’  
  
They all shouted:  
  
 ‘Hang him up on a pole!’  
  
23But he asked:  
  
 ‘Why? What crime has he committed?’  
  
And they all kept shouting louder and louder:  
  
 ‘Hang him up on a pole!’  
  
24Well, when he saw that he wasn’t doing any good and he was just inciting a riot, Pilate got some water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying:  
  
 ‘I’m innocent of this man’s blood… You take the responsibility for this on yourselves!’  
  
25And all the people said:  
  
 ‘May we and our children be responsible for his blood!’  
  
26So he then released BarAbbas to them, and he had Jesus whipped and bound over for impaling.  
  
27Thereafter, the governor’s soldiers took Jesus inside the palace and they brought in the whole Battalion. 28There they removed [Jesus’] clothes, wrapped a scarlet cape around him, 29braided a crown of thorns and slipped it over his head, and they put a piece of cane in his right hand.  
  
Then, kneeling down, they made fun of him by shouting the greeting:  
  
 ‘Rejoice, O you King of the Jews!’  
  
30They also spit on him and they took the cane and started hitting him on the head with it.  
  
31Finally, after they had tired of their fun, they took off the cape, put his clothes back on, and took him out to be impaled.  
  
32Well, as they were leading him out, they found a man from Cyrene [Libya] whose name was Simon, and they made him carry the pole.  
  
33Then when they got to the place called GolGotha (Skull Place), 34they offered [Jesus] some wine mixed with gall to drink. But after he tasted it, he wouldn’t drink it.  
  
35It was after [they had nailed] him on the pole that [the soldiers] then divided his clothes by throwing lots. 36And thereafter, they all just sat around and watched him.  
  
37They also put a sign over his head that showed the charge against him:  
  
 ‘This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.’  
  
38Two robbers were also hung on poles beside him… One on his right and the other on his left.  
  
39Then those who were passing by started shouting terrible things at [Jesus], shaking their heads 40and saying:  
  
 ‘O you who would tear down the Most Holy and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself! If you’re a son of The God, come down off the pole!’  
  
41That’s the way the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders also made fun of him.  
  
They were saying:  
  
 42‘He saved others, but he can’t save himself! If he’s the King of IsraEl, let him come down from the pole and we’ll believe him. 43He’s put his trust in God, so let [God] rescue him if He wants him. After all, he says, I’m God’s Son!’  
  
44In fact, even the robbers that were hung on poles with him started saying cruel things to him.  
  
45Then from the 6th to the 9th hours [12 noon to 3pm], darkness fell over the whole land.  
  
46And at about the 9th hour [3pm], Jesus called out in a loud voice:  
  
 ‘Eli, Eli;  
 Lama sabachthani?’  
  
That is:  
  
 ‘My God, my God;  
 Why have you abandoned me?’  
  
47Well when some of those who were standing around heard this, they thought he was calling for EliJah. 48And immediately, one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it in vinegar, then lifted it on a reed to give him something to drink.  
  
49But the rest of them said:  
  
 ‘Leave him alone! Let’s see if EliJah comes to save him!’  
  
Finally, a man took a spear and jabbed it into his side, and blood mixed with water poured out. 50Then Jesus cried out loudly and gave up his breath.  
  
51And at that, {Look!} the Temple’s [inner] curtain ripped in two from the top to the bottom, as the ground shook and rocks split! 52and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised 53and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. [spurious text]  
  
54But the army officer and those with him that were watching over Jesus (after they saw the earthquake and the other things that had happened) were really frightened and said:  
  
 ‘This truly was God’s Son!’  
  
55Well during this entire time, many women were standing around and watching from a distance. These women had traveled with Jesus from Galilee in order to serve him. 56They included Mary from Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of ZebediOu.  
  
  
  
57Then later that afternoon, a rich man from HariMathea named JoSeph (who was also a disciple of Jesus) 58went to Pilate and asked for his body. So Pilate commanded that it should be given to him.  
  
59Therefore, JoSeph took the body, wrapped it up in fine clean linen, 60and laid it in a new tomb that had just been quarried in the bedrock. And after rolling a large rock against the tomb entrance, he left.  
  
61Meanwhile, Mary from Magdala and the other Mary just sat there across from the tomb.  
  
  
  
62Then the next day (after the Preparation), the Chief Priests and Pharisees gathered and they went before Pilate to say:  
  
 63‘Lord,  
  
 ‘We remember that while he was alive, that impostor said:  
  
 ‘In three days, I’ll be raised.’  
  
 64‘Therefore, order the grave to be made secure until the third day, so his disciples don’t go there and steal him, then tell the people that he was raised from the dead.  
  
 ‘For that would make this last deceit even worse than the first!’  
  
65But Pilate replied:  
  
 ‘You have watchmen; go make it as secure as you know how.’  
  
66So they went and made the grave secure by sealing the stone and posting guards [at the end of the Sabbath, that is, Saturday evening].