

21 The life and death of Jesus - Crucifixion



Jesus knew when he would die

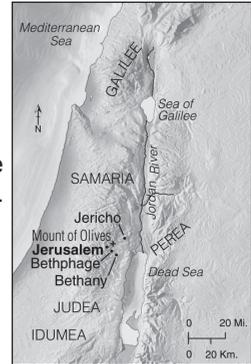
Matthew 16:21-23, 17:1-8

From an early age Jesus knew what his life held for him. With disciples who didn't seem to understand, what happened to strengthen Jesus and help explain to Peter, James and John? How do you think this helped Jesus?



Matthew 17-21

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus continued in selfless service to others. Make some notes about his parables and miracles. What does this show about Jesus, do you think?



Jesus at Bethany and the betrayal by Judas

John 12:1-6

Jesus returned to Bethany for supper at the house of Simon the leper. Why did the anointing of Jesus' feet anger Judas so much?

Matthew 21:1-5

Jesus was in control of events as he led the disciples to Jerusalem. When Jesus sent two disciples ahead into the city, what prophecy was this to fulfil? Why do you think Jesus was concerned to fulfil what Old Testament prophets had written?

Matthew 21:13-16

After Jesus' arrival, the whole of the city was buzzing with excitement. To show up the authorities for what they were, what did Jesus do first?

What happened in the temple area that made the chief priests and teachers of the law indignant? Why do you think Jesus did what he did?

The authority of Jesus questioned

Matthew 21:23-27

After retiring for the night to Bethany, Jesus returned the next day. The chief priests and teachers of the law were angered by the events of the previous day, and they began to ask trick questions and to accuse him. How did Jesus answer the question about what authority he had to teach?

Matthew 22:15-46

What further questions did the authorities ask of Jesus in their attempts to accuse him?

The plot against Jesus

Matthew 26:1-5

Jesus told his disciples once again that he would be crucified. What was the name of the high priest in whose palace the chief priests and elders plotted? Why would they not arrest and kill Jesus straight away? The Passover was now two days away!



Passover

Why was the death of Jesus like the sacrifice of the Passover lamb?

John 13:1-5 How did Jesus show his love to his disciples in the upper room at supper? How would they have felt, do you think?

John 13:27 What did Jesus say to Judas as he shared the bread and wine of the Passover supper with him? How would you treat someone who was plotting to betray you?



The Garden of Gethsemane

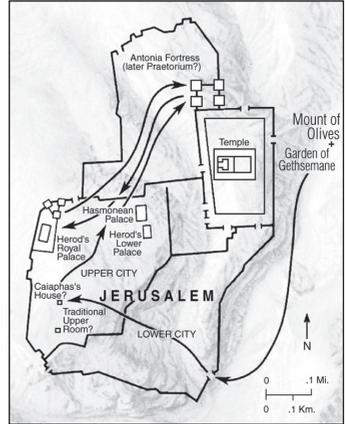
John 18:1-3

How did Judas know where to find Jesus?



Jesus' prayers

Matthew 26:36-46. Why do you think Jesus needed the support of his disciples? Does he still need his disciples? What did Jesus' prayer mean?



The arrest of Jesus

Matthew 26:47-50. When Judas betrayed Jesus by kissing him, what do we learn from what Jesus said to Judas?

John 18:3-11. What made the soldiers fall to the ground? What did Jesus say, and what does this show about him?



Jesus gives the High Priest the evidence

Matthew 26:57-66

Jesus was brought before Caiaphas the high priest and the rest of the Sanhedrin. What evidence did they have against him? What did Jesus do, and why do you think he did it?

Think about how Jesus was treated. How would you have felt?

Peter's denial

Just as Jesus had predicted at the last supper, Peter denied knowing him. What does a cock crowing normally signify? Why do you think Jesus chose a cock crowing to be a sign to Peter?



Jesus' trial before Pilate

John 18:28-40. Why did the Jews need Pilate to condemn Jesus to death?

Matthew 27:15-26. What do you think of Pilate's behaviour? What about the people? Would you have been any different, do you think?

The fate of Judas

Matthew 27:3-10. When Judas realised that Jesus had been condemned to be crucified, what did he do? Why do you think he did this?

What further piece of prophecy was fulfilled with the 30 pieces of silver?



The Crucifixion

Matthew 27:27-44. What sorts of physical and mental abuse did Jesus suffer? Why didn't he complain?

Matthew 27:45-54. For how many hours did Jesus hang on the cross and what strange phenomenon occurred? What do you think was the meaning of this?

Jesus endured to the end in silence all the pain, suffering and the mental torture knowing that he was the rightful king that they mocked, but he had to die. With the sin of the world resting on his shoulders, he cried; "My God, My God why have you forsaken me" and his Father relieved him of his suffering.