



THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jesus' Death and Burial: Setting Every Captive Free

Session Number: 46 | Week: 7 | Day: 4

Bible Passage

Matthew 27:51-66

Introduction

In a world where many reject Christ due to ignorance of His death, this session from Matthew 27:51-66 is crucial for empowering the disciples of Jesus Christ today in defending their faith (apologetics). By gaining a deep understanding of the death of Jesus and the overwhelming evidence supporting it, believers can confidently address the doubts and criticisms prevalent in today's world. This passage presents over six eyewitness accounts and key events that affirm the reality of Christ's death and burial, including testimonies from the resurrected saints, the centurion, the women, Joseph of Arimathea, Pilate, the chief priests, Pharisees, and the guards. Study this session carefully to equip yourself with these five unique pieces of evidence—such as the tearing of the temple veil, the earthquake, the splitting of rocks, and the raising of saints—so that you can confidently share and defend these truths with others.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, you will have:

- Learned how to present compelling evidence of Jesus Christ's death to doubters by identifying at least five eyewitnesses and their testimonies.
- Gained confidence in proclaiming the death and burial of Jesus by referencing the accounts of eyewitnesses to these events.

Session Outline

- **The death of Jesus on the cross:** He yielded His spirit into the hands of God the Father.
- **Initial evidence confirming the death of Jesus Christ.**
- **The seven eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ's death and burial,** and their testimonies.
- **How to effectively present the evidence of Jesus Christ's death** to doubters.
- **Practise presenting the evidence of Jesus' death to others.**
- **His burial** by a wealthy secret disciple.

Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.
- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

Comprehending

What do the verses mean?
(In small groups, attempt the following questions):

- Read Matthew 27:50 - What distinguished Jesus' death from the deaths of others?
- Read Matthew 27:50-56 - Identify five unique events that served as initial proof of Jesus Christ's death.
- Read Matthew 27:52-66 - For those who doubt Jesus Christ's death, list five witnesses (individuals or groups) who could testify to His death. What would each of their testimonies include? Discuss and compile your answers in your groups.
- What lessons did you learn from the account of Jesus Christ's death?

Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
 - **Sin** to confess
 - **Promise** to claim
 - **Attitude** to change
 - **Command** to keep
 - **Error** to change
 - **Prayer** to make
 - **Example** to copy
 - **Truth** to obey and
 - **Something** praiseworthy

Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.