

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

The four gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry vary in their selections of stories and in their details. Each gospel writer has a different audience in mind and a different goal, both of which influence what and how they retell Christ's life. However, the story of Jesus' crucifixion is so important to the message of salvation that we find an account of it in each of the four gospels. Examining the story of Jesus' crucifixion in each of the four gospels reveals a beautiful tapestry of perspectives as each writer retells the event and stories of people at the cross. Together we'll study each of the four crucifixion accounts in the gospels to witness the fulfillment of Scripture and remember the significance of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. We'll also see where we can recognize ourselves in the story and consequently, find hope and encouragement in the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Tell the story of Jesus' death on the cross in your own words. What details about the event and people do you remember?
- Why do witnesses of an event often highlight different details when they describe it? Or why might two family members recall a shared memory differently?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ](#)

READ [Matthew 27:45-53](#), [Mark 15:40-41](#), [Luke 23:13-25](#), [John 19:28-37](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In his gospel, Matthew details how God tears the temple veil that keeps people from entering the Holy of Holies. God visually removes the barrier that separates him from his people. Now people can go in and be in relationship with him and God can also *go out* to meet his people where they are at. Why do you think this can be described as both humbling and encouraging?
- How did it make you feel when host Darrell Delaney said “We are Barabbas. We have rebelled. We want to shake our finger, but we need to look in the mirror.” Do you agree with him? If so, where do you see this tendency in your life?
- In both of the gospels of Matthew and Luke, we find two descriptions of the “divine exchange” that happens at the cross: the guilty are pardoned and made holy and the one who is innocent becomes guilty. How does Matthew's account of the torn veil and Luke's account of Pilate and Barabbas help you grasp the magnitude of the “divine exchange” and of God's love for you?
- Why is it such a profound and important distinction that in John's gospel Jesus says “*It is finished*” and not “*I am finished*”? What did you learn from Darrell and host Scott Hoezee's discussion of the Greek term *telos* (the end purpose or goal)?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Hebrews 12:1-3](#), [Acts 2:1-12](#), [Genesis 1:27](#), [Exodus 12:46](#), [Numbers 9:12](#), [Psalm 34:20](#), [Zechariah 12:10](#)

CONCLUSION

Which gospel account of Jesus' crucifixion did you find most interesting this time? Which one gave you the most to think about?

Reread [Hebrews 12:1-3](#). Close your time of reflection with prayer. If needed, consider using some of these prayer prompts:

- Thank you, Holy Spirit, for stirring in me what I need to hear/remember this season...
- Thank you, Christ, for your sacrifice...
- Thank you, God, for removing the divide and tearing the veil...
- Help me remain focused on the joy set before me as I endure hardship...

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