

Matthew 27:1–66 (ESV)

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

2 And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

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Jesus Before Pilate

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, “**You have said so.**” **12** But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave **no** answer. **13** Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”

14 But he gave **him** no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

The Crowd Chooses Barabbas

15 Now at the feast, the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. **16** And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. **17** So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” **18** For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. **19** Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.”

20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. **21** The governor again

said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵ And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus Is Mocked

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means

Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us

see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Jesus Is Buried

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard at the Tomb

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

1 Timothy 2:3-6

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

A couple of thousand years ago, (most probably **not on** a hill [such as moving pictures of a cross on a hill]), but **at** a hill the locals would call “Golgotha” (place of the skull), most likely, at a particular creepy rock formation that resembles eye-

sockets and a jutting out nose a mouth – a place of death...
Jesus was crucified...

And it wasn't accidental; Nor was Jesus an unwilling participant...

Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all.

At one time, the forgiveness of sins was available for the people of Israel, through the temple sacrificial system. And the intermediary for them (the mediator between God and men): that was the high priest. Once a year, the High Priest was allowed to venture beyond the thick curtain. There was a thick curtain, that separated “the Holy Place” (the spot where they were allowed to go), from “the Holy of Holies”. Once a year, the High Priest could step beyond the thick curtain, into “the Holy of Holies”, and meet with God, and there, atone for the sins of the people of Israel....

But in 1 Timothy, we discover that God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now, that was a bit of a problem for those who weren't the people of Israel, because the non-Jews (the Gentiles) weren't even allowed into the Temple. They were allowed into the Temple Precinct (court of the Gentiles), but not into the Temple proper.

But that all changed at the cross. Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all. And that word “all”, is really “all kinds” – every nationality...

When Jesus died: He
⁵⁰ cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

What was happening? What is the significance of the curtain being torn-in-two??? Jesus was paying the ransom for all. Not just for the people of Israel, but for non-Jews as well.

God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. What is that truth?

- there is one God
- and there is one mediator between God and men
- And that mediator, is the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

There **is** only one God. And there **is** only one way to be saved, because there is only **one** mediator between God and men... Jesus has become the new High Priest, and not just for the people of Israel – for **all** people.

Now, some denominations (and some Christians themselves) have a really weird and warped view about mediation between God and man...

They have a picture that “I’m not worthy to come before a holy God, and so I need a person (someone more worthy than I am) to be that intermediary, between God and me”...

And they’re quite right – we’re **not** worthy. **I’m** not worthy. We **do** need a mediator between us and God... but the problem is, they look in the wrong place for a mediator. There is **one** mediator (no other):-
the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

Some understand that the priest or their pastor is the mediator between them and God. They are quite wrong. There is only **one** man who is the mediator: the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

Some try and better that: The local priest isn’t good enough. The head priest – the bishop of Rome – the Pope. And they go to him to be their mediator between God and man. They also, are quite wrong. There is only **one** man who is the mediator: the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

Some take it another step, and they pray to (or through) a particularly special Christian or 2, who now they’ve died,

have been recognised as being extra special and canonised as “saints”... “They can be the intermediary between us and God”... They are quite wrong. There is only **one** man who is the mediator: the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

Some look to:

- Buddha;
- Krishna;
- Dahlia Lama;
- Mohammad;
- some other god/goddess/intermediary

who will give them eternal hope and happiness...

They are quite wrong.

- there is one God
- and there is one mediator between God and men
- And that mediator, is the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all

That’s what the cross is about...

You see, God desires all people to be saved. And He made that possible, when Jesus paid the ransom... But this cannot happen through multiple belief systems. And this is why we preach truth. The truth is:

- there is one God
- and there is one mediator between God and men

Now, what’s the evidence of that?

When Jesus died on the cross (as the ransom), V6 says: This is the testimony given at the proper time.

The Greek word for “testimony” is μαρτύριον (martyrion) (yes, from which we get our word “martyr”) and it means “Testimony; Evidence; Proof”... The proof that:

- there is one God
 - and there is one mediator between God and men
- The proof, is that the mediator (the Lord Jesus Christ) is the one who gave Himself as a ransom for all...

Our Lord on the cross, is the proof that He’s the mediator, through whom God has made it possible for all to be saved.

None other.

Only Jesus...

- Our Lord;
- our mediator;
- our ransom;

Let’s pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,

We thank You

And we praise you.

Words cannot express,
how great the love You have for us,
that You gave Yourself as a ransom for all...

And Lord, we thank You, that You are the one mediator
between us and God.

Forgive us for when we've looked for any other
intermediary.

Even though we are so unworthy,
you took on flesh,
to die,
so that we sinful mortals,
could commune with a Holy God.

Lord,
help us **never** to cease to marvel at this:
- at Your great love,
demonstrated at the cross.

Help us never take this for granted...

We Love You Lord,
And we worship You,
Amen.