

A Different Path to Success

Only the Beginning of the Story Matthew 27:27–56

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. Matthew 27:50

1. Read Matthew 27:27–31. Describe the treatment that Jesus receives, and compare it to the treatment he deserves. (Consider Revelation 7:9–12.)
2. Read Matthew 27:32–40. Why does Jesus have to die? What does his death accomplish? (Isaiah 53:5; John 1:29)
3. Think about your answer to question 2 and try to explain the significance of Simon's carrying Jesus' cross (verse 32)?
4. Why might Jesus have refused to take the sedative offered to him in verse 34?
5. Jesus is taunted while he's hanging on the cross (verses 39–44). How does he respond? (see also 1 Peter 2:23)
6. After hanging on the cross for hours, what does Jesus cry out in verse 46? What does this cry reveal about what Jesus was experiencing/enduring? (Isaiah 53:10a; 2 Corinthians 5:21a; Galatians 3:13)
7. What miraculous signs accompany Jesus' death? What response do they elicit from the bystanders? (verse 54)

8. What is the enormous significance of the little detail that Matthew includes in verse 51a? (Hebrews 10:19–22)

9. It was probably not very safe or politically correct to be associated with a crucified convict. Who do we find actively surrounding Jesus? (verses 55–56) Who is glaringly missing? (Recall Matthew 26:35, 56b)

10. Read Isaiah 53. What truths about suffering—Jesus’ suffering on our behalf and our own present sufferings—is God impressing upon you?