

The Gospel of Luke

# Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

***Listed Scriptures***

Mt 27; Mk 15; Lk 23; Jn 19; Mt 28:1-20; Mk 16:1-20; Lk 24:1-53; Jn 20-21

***Lesson Aim***

- 1) To enable students to understand that the Son of man came to die on the cross to save mankind
- 2) To enable students to reflect on how to repay the Lord and live their lives for Him

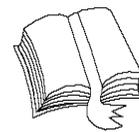
***Memory Verse***

“For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”  
(Lk 19:10)

***Bible Reading For This Week*** (for students and teachers)

Luke 9-16

B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



One of the cruelest and vindictive instruments of punishment used by Greeks and Romans was the crucifixion. It was used to execute victims and criminals who were not Roman citizens. It was a death for the worst criminals and terrorists. Before the crucifixion the prisoner was flogged; the blood loss hastened the death. The criminal carried his own cross, or a part of it, to the place of execution, which was outside the city. Arriving there, the prisoner was stripped of his clothes which became the property of the soldiers, and was then nailed to the crosspiece by the wrists and to the stake by the ankles. The death was slow and painful. The person was left to die of sheer exhaustion and suffocation due to lack of oxygen. This ordinarily would have taken days. While hanging on the cross, the person could use his legs to lift up his body in an attempt to take more oxygen into his collapsing lungs. In order to speed up the process of death, a person’s legs were sometimes broken. In most cases the body was left to rot on the cross in the sun and rain or to be devoured

by birds and beasts. It was on the cross that the Lord Jesus gave His life for us to complete the plan of salvation. Because of this, the cross, ordinarily a symbol of curse and horror, has become the most beautiful symbol for Christians. To the Jews, the cross is a stumbling block. To the Gentiles, it is folly, but to Christians, it is the symbol of victory, love, salvation, peace and joy.

Both Annas and Caiaphas were high priests. Annas was Israel's high priest from AD 6-15, when he was deposed by Roman rulers. Caiaphas, Annas' son-in-law, was appointed high priest from AD 18 to 36/37. According to Jewish law, the office of high priest was held for life. But the Romans didn't like such concentration of power under one person, so they frequently changed the high priest. However, many Jews still considered Annas to be the high priest and still called him by that title. Although Annas retained much authority among the Jews, Caiaphas made the final decision.

Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea (the region where Jerusalem is located) from AD 26-36. Pilate was unpopular with the Jews because he had taken money from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct. Pilate resided in Caesarea, but he came to Jerusalem during the major feasts to maintain order and to handle any riots or insurrections that might occur.

## W A R M U P



What is love?

Share an act of love that has touched you the most.

The story of Jesus Christ on the cross is the greatest story of love. Unlike love stories of old that speak of love between lovers, or parents and children, this is the story of the Creator dying for His creatures. "God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). From kings to slaves, from the educated to the illiterate, from the old to the young, from developed countries to primitive tribes, this story of true love has been told over and over again, and it is still being told today.



Part 1

## The Son of Man



### A. The Lord Jesus' Trial

The Lord Jesus once asked Peter, "Who do people say the Son of man is?" The term "Son of man" is found in both the Old and New Testaments. In the New Testament, it is used 94 times, and, with five exceptions, always by Christ Himself. On the one hand, the phrase "Son of man" refers to the glorified and exalted Christ who will come and judge the whole world. It refers to the glorious status of Jesus Christ. Daniel 7:13 prophecies how the Son of man will establish a kingdom that will not be destroyed. However, the "Son of man" has another meaning. While it carries the meaning of authority it also refers to Christ's full humanity and His redemptive work and mission. It implies servitude and suffering. Mark 10:45 reads, "for the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." The Lord came not only as the exalted Christ, but to serve, suffer, die and resurrect (Mt 16:21-23; Mt 17:22; Mt 20:17).

#### a. Before the Jewish authorities

\* *Before Annas (Jn 18:13-23)*

By night, a band of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees came to arrest the Lord Jesus. Once the religious leaders had the Lord Jesus in their power, events began to move. Their purpose was to kill Him—determining His guilt and innocence was a mere formality. The Lord was first taken to the house of Annas the former high priest, where He was interrogated. According to Jewish law, trials were not supposed to be held at night. Lord Jesus was tried secretly and illegally because the religious leaders had an objective, which was to have Him executed before the Sabbath so that they could get on with the Passover celebration.

\* *Before Caiaphas (Mt 26:57-68; Mk 14:53-65; Lk 22:54, 63-65; Jn 18:24)*

Jesus Christ was then brought before Caiaphas, the ruling high priest (Mt 26:57-58). Here they wanted to know one thing: Who was Jesus? They wanted the Lord to tell them if He was the Christ. They brought in witness-

es who said that they had heard the Lord say that He would destroy the temple and build it in three days. The Lord Jesus told them, "From now on, the Son of man will be seated at the right hand of the Mighty God." By saying this, the Lord Jesus confessed that yes, He was the Messiah, the Son of God. The council needed no further testimony. The Lord had said so Himself. Their accusation against the Lord Jesus was blasphemy – claiming equality with God. Blasphemy, the sin of claiming to be God, was punishable by death. The Jewish leaders had the evidence they wanted. Under Jewish law, a person who committed blasphemy was to be stoned (Lev 24:16).

\* *Before the Sanhedrin (Mt 27:1; Mk 15:1; Lk 22:66-71)*

The Sanhedrin was the council of the elders of the people. The council could condemn the Lord to death, but they could not carry out the death penalty under Roman law. The Romans had to condemn Him. So the Lord was led to trial before the local Roman leader - Pontius Pilate.

## **b. Before Roman authorities**

\* *First hearing before Pilate (Mt 27:2, 11-14; Mk 15:1-5; Lk 23:1-6; Jn 18:28-38)*

The religious leaders had condemned the Lord to death on religious grounds, but only the Roman government could grant the death penalty. Thus, they took the Lord Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Pilate did not want to be involved, but the Jews interpreted the charges against the Lord in a political sense. They said, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." According to Roman law, crimes such as treason and rebellion against the Roman government and Caesar were deserving of the death penalty. Pilate saw at once that the Lord was innocent, yet Pilate was afraid of offending the Jews. He feared that perhaps the religious leaders would report him to Caesar for supporting another king apart from Caesar and for not dealing with a rebel.

\* *Hearing before Herod (Lk 23:7-12)*

Because the Lord Jesus' home was in the region of Galilee, Pilate sent the Lord to Herod Agrippa, the ruler of Galilee who was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Pilate may have wanted to pass the Lord onto Herod as a way of escaping the dilemma of judging the Lord. However, Herod eventually wanted nothing to do with Him and sent Him back to Pilate.

\* *Last hearing before Pilate (Mt 27:15-26; Mk 16:6-15; Lk 23:13-25; Jn 18:39-19:16)*

Pilate didn't like the religious leaders. He wasn't interested in condemning the Lord Jesus because he knew the Lord Jesus was innocent. However, he knew that another uprising in his district might cost him his job. First he tried to compromise by having the Lord scourged and then released, which was an illegal act in itself. However the Jews persisted, and when the mob seemed to get more uncontrollable, he ordered his soldiers to inflict the scourging prior to execution. Pilate again tried to convince the Jews of the Lord's innocence. Finally, when the Jews cried, "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend" (John 19:12), Pilate yielded and handed the Lord Jesus over to be executed. Pilate's self interest and political success were more important than his sense of justice. And so Pilate shared in the greatest crime that has ever been committed.

## **B. The Lord's Suffering and Crucifixion**

The Lord Jesus was flogged and then delivered to be crucified (Mk 27:26-31). He had to carry His heavy cross on the way to Golgotha. His strength failing, He stumbled on the way, and the soldiers forced Simeon, a man from Cyrene, to carry the Lord Jesus' cross.

Arriving at Golgotha, northwest of Jerusalem, known as place of the skull, they crucified the Lord on the cross. They lifted Him up between two criminals, one on His left and one on His right. Though suffering deepest agony while on the cross, the Lord Jesus did not forget His mother and entrusted her to His beloved disciple. Through all the suffering, the Lord still prayed for the very people who crucified Him (Lk 23:33-35). The Lord Jesus endured the shame and agony of the crucifixion, the ridicule of the crowd, and the mocking of the soldiers because He recognized that it was for this purpose He came to the world. The Jews and the Romans were not taking His life from Him; He was laying it down of His own accord (Jn 10:17-18). At the height of noon till three o'clock, the entire earth turned dark and the earth shook. This was the time the Lord Jesus' soul went down to Hades (Heb 2:9; Ac 2:27). His soul suffered the deepest agony. The darkness was both physical and spiritual. The curtain that separated the most holy place from the holy place was torn in two, from top to bottom. Then with a loud voice he cried, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit," and with that, the Lord bowed His head and gave up His spirit to God (Jn 19:30; Lk 23:46). The Lamb of God who carried the sins of the world had given Himself in place of sinners.

With the death of the Lord, the earth became black, the earth trembled, the rock split and even the dead rose from the grave. The centurion who was standing guard saw the signs, feared greatly and exclaimed, "This truly is the Son of God" (Mt 27:45-54). Most likely this centurion had carried out other such executions, but never had anything like this happened before. Indeed the Lord Jesus was no ordinary human being.

Ordinarily, the crucified were left to die on the cross, but as it was the Sabbath and the Passover Festival the next day, the legs of the criminals were broken to speed up the process of death, and the bodies were brought down. On seeing that the Lord had already died, a centurion pierced the side of Jesus with a spear and at once, blood and water flowed out. Later, Joseph from Arimathea requested for Lord's body and buried Him in his own tomb.

In the history of mankind, the greatest miracle is that the Lord Jesus was able to rise from the dead three days after, just as He and the prophets of old had predicted (Ps 16:10; Ac 2:31; Mt 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:32). If Jesus Christ was like any other ordinary man who died and could not resurrect, His body would still have been in the tomb, and God's salvation would be empty. But He is God, the author of life, and He conquered death and sin once and for all.



Part 2

## What Does the Lord Jesus' Death Mean?

### **A . Forgiveness of Sins**

Have you ever been in debt? Imagine your debt to be so great that no matter how hard you try to pay it off, the interest keeps adding up. No matter what you do, the debt remains. Before knowing the Lord, we were like people who had debts that could not be paid off. These debts represent our sins. Because of our sins, we were totally cut off from God. Sin became a perpetual barrier between God and us. In an effort to deal with the problem of sin, people in the Old Testament times brought animals such as lambs, goats or bulls to atone for sins (Lev 4). The animal sacrifice became a substitute for the person. The animal's blood was shed so that one's life could be given for another. But people sin continually, so frequent sacrifices were required. In the New Testament, instead of the spotless lamb, Jesus Christ came as the Lamb of God to sacrifice Himself and forgive sin once and for all. He

was the final and ultimate sacrifice for sin. The Lord Jesus was without sin, but in order to redeem us from sin and death, He bore the sins of mankind and paid the full penalty for sin. His life and blood were shed instead of ours, so that through His death we may live. When the soldier pierced the side of Jesus Christ, water and blood flowed out. Today, those who come before Him with faith will have their sins completely washed away by His blood through water baptism (Eph 1:7; Heb 9:13-14; 10:10; Rom 5:8; 8:3; 1 Cor 15:3; Heb 9:28).

### **B . Reconciliation with God (Rom 5:10; Eph 2:13)**

Before Christ called us, we were people removed and separated from Christ. We were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenant of promise, without hope and without God in the world (Eph 2:12-22). Because of our sins, we belonged not to God, but to Satan and this dark world. Our end would have been pitiful. But, thanks be to God, the Lord opened for us a new and living way through His death. Through the correct mode of baptism we are sanctified and justified in God's sight. Henceforth we can come before the Lord without fear. We are no longer barred from God due to sin. We become reconciled with God and our former noble status as sons of God is once again restored (Heb 10:19-22; 2:14-15; 1 Cor 15:21-22).

### **C . Victory Over the Power of Sin and Death**

There is nothing more horrifying than a convict facing execution. Because of his crimes, a criminal fears the terrifying prospect of knowing that on a particular day, his death will be inevitable. Before knowing the Lord, our fate is like that of the criminal on death row. The moment we breathe our last, we face the horrible prospect of suffering eternally in hell for our sins. The book of Romans tells us that the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Before we knew God, we were bound by sin and Satan. But Jesus came to deal with the problem of sin that leads to death. The Lord Jesus came to suffer and die for us. Yet, the Lord was not imprisoned by death because He was completely without sin. The power of sin had no foothold on Him. In the same way, because of His death, we too can be released from our bondage of sin and the power of death. Through baptism and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, sin no longer has a death grip on us. Although we die on the last day, we will rise up again to be together with our Lord. For this, we sing with loud voices, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 15:54-56).

## C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



**1** List why the Jews wanted the Lord Jesus executed.

**2** List the arguments between the Jews and Pilate.

**3** Why did the Lord have to come as a man to die on the cross?

**4** The Lord left His heavenly throne to come down in the lowliest form to suffer and die for us. What things have we given up that are dear to us?

**5** Jesus Christ resolved to die for us despite the suffering that He would encounter. What resolutions have we made for God?

## L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N

### *How Much Do You Love Me?*



One day I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, the Lord brought His presence to me.

He asked me, "Do you love me?"

I answered, "Of course God! You are my Lord and my Savior!"

Then he asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms and legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be hard Lord, but I would still love you."

The Lord said, "If you were blind would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it, I wondered? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still love God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still

love you."

Then the Lord asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

Again I asked myself how I could listen to anything being deaf. Then I understood. Listening to God's word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to your word."

The Lord asked again, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. Praising God is not always with a song, but can also happen when we are being persecuted. We give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise your name."

And the Lord further asked, "Do you really love me?"

With courage and strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love you because you are the one and true God."

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Why then do you sin?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why are your prayers earnest only in times of trouble?"

No answer. Only tears.

The Lord continued, "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution do you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my household?"

I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

“You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have reached out to you with my word, but you did not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard all your prayers, and I have answered them. Do you truly love me?”

I could not answer. How could I? I was too embarrassed. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When all tears had flowed, I said, “Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be your child.”

The Lord answered, “That is my grace, my child.”

I asked, “Why then do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?”

The Lord answered, “Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you laugh with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you till the end of days, and I will love you forever.”

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, “How much do you love me?”

And the Lord stretched out His arms as they were nailed to the cross. I bowed down at the feet of Christ my savior and for the first time, I truly prayed.

## **Questions to think about:**

- 1.** *What message(s) does this story convey?*  
(What have we done to repay the love of God? We say we love God, but how have our lives reflected this? Would we still love God if we had physical imperfections and if He took all that we love and treasure away? Despite our unworthiness and our weaknesses, the love of God still knows no end.)
- 2.** *Does the author relate to us in any way?*
- 3.** *Has there been a time when we truly experienced the deep love of Christ? Describe that moment or experience.*

- 4.** *What significance does the death of our Lord Jesus have in our lives?*  
(Through the death of the Lord Jesus, our sins are forgiven through water baptism. We are reconciled with God, and we have victory over sin and death.)
- 5.** *The Lord gave His life for us, what can we leave at the cross for the Lord?*
- 6.** *How can we help others to understand and feel the limitless depth of God’s love?*  
(Through being filled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:4); through recognizing our sins, weaknesses and our unworthiness (1 Tim 1:15; Rom 5:20); through knowing and understanding the nature of God’s love (Eph 3:16-19))
- 7.** *When the Lord died, the curtain in the temple tore “from the top to the bottom.” What is significant about this phrase?*  
(In the Old Testament times, when people sinned, they would bring animals to the priests for sacrifices to atone for sins. Each year, the high priest would enter through the curtain, into the Most Holy Place, where he would offer sacrifices of atonement on behalf of the people. No one could enter or come before God to offer sacrifices except the high priest. But, through the death of the Lord Jesus, the curtain that separated us from God and prevented us from coming before God was torn into two. Through His flesh, a new and living way to God was opened up for us (Heb 10:20). No longer were we barred from God because of sin. We can come before the Lord without fear. And through the correct mode of baptism, we are reconciled with God, and our former noble status as sons of God is restored.)
- 8.** *To get a small impression of the enormity of what God has forgiven us through dying on the cross, write down every sin that we have committed in the last week. Try to leave nothing out – the harsh words, the uncaring attitudes, the selfish actions. Don’t rush over the process; try to compile as thorough an inventory as possible. After this, ask God to forgive us of our sins and thank Him for His infinite love and forgiveness.*
- 9.** *Even if we are far from being poets, try to compose a few lines of poetry to describe your feelings about Christ’s death. Emphasize what is most meaningful to you.*



*May the Lord grant to us power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:16-19).*

## Lesson 9

The Gospel of Luke

# Jesus Christ, the Savior of All Mankind

### Listed Scriptures

Lk 2:1-14; 8:1-3; 10:29-37; 16:19-31; 19:1-10; 24:44-48; Gal 3:23-4:7

### Lesson Aim

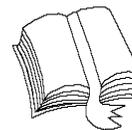
- 1) To enable students to know that the Lord Jesus came to save all mankind
- 2) To enable students to realize the importance of preaching the gospel to the different people of this world

### Memory Verse

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3:26-28)

### Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Luke 17-24



Please refer to the Bible Background section in Lessons 7 and 8 for additional information on the Gospel of Luke (Lessons 7, 8 and 9 are Bible studies based on the Gospel of Luke).