

# THE CROSS

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## INTRODUCTION

- Jesus' death on the cross is the most significant event in human history

## IN THE GARDEN (Matthew 26:36-46)

- Matthew 26:36-39
  - Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death
  - Jesus wanted his friends with him during his time of suffering
  - Jesus did not want to go to the cross
- Matthew 26:40-46
  - Jesus was disappointed with his friends' inability to help him during his time of need
  - Jesus was surrendered to God's will
  - Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends—Judas

## BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN—THE RELIGIOUS COURT (Matthew 26:57-68)

- Matthew 26:57-66
  - Jesus was falsely accused of many things—all part of a conspiracy to have him put to death
  - Jesus was falsely charged with blasphemy
- Matthew 26:67-68
  - Jesus was humiliated by being spat upon and mocked
  - Jesus was punched and slapped repeatedly
  - Since the Jews were under Roman rule, they could not execute Jesus; so they had to convince the Roman officials to execute him.

## BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR (Matthew 27:11-31)

- Matthew 27: 11-14
  - Jesus remained silent and did not fight against the false charges
- Matthew 27:15-25
  - The crowd chose a murderer (Barabbas) to be released instead of Jesus
  - In fear of an uprising, Pilate gave in to the crowd's demands to have Jesus executed
- Matthew 27:26-31
  - A Roman flogging was severe and could sometimes end in death
  - After the flogging, a crown of thorns was pushed onto his head, causing Jesus more intense pain
  - The crown of thorns was also a way to humiliate and mock Jesus for his claims of being a king
  - Even after all of these methods of torture, Jesus was beaten again with a wooden staff

**ON THE CROSS** (Matthew 27:32-50)

- Matthew 27:32-37  
Jesus was crucified—one of the cruelest forms of execution  
The suffering of the nails being pounded into his hands and feet was intense; asphyxiation was the usual way in which people being crucified finally died
- Isaiah 52:14  
Jesus was beaten and bruised beyond recognition
- Matthew 27:45-50  
Jesus suffered separation from God by taking upon himself the sins of the world  
After hours of intense pain and suffering (physical, emotional and spiritual), Jesus died

**WHY JESUS DIED** (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- The cross teaches us two things:  
God loves you in a very profound and special way  
Jesus paid an amazing price for your sins
- On the left side of a sheet of paper, list some sins you have committed against Jesus  
On the right side, list the sins Jesus committed (1 Peter 2:21-25)

Your Name	Jesus	Jesus	Your Name
Pride		Pride	
Lying		Lying	
Envy		Envy	
Lust		Lust	
.		.	
.		.	

Switch the headings on the columns

- Jesus paid the price for the sins listed under your name
- What does this say about God’s love for you? What type of response does this type of love require?