

17. Jesus and the Cross

One day Jesus told his followers, "I have to go to Jerusalem now. There one of you will betray me. The religious leaders will arrest me and sentence me to death. They will hand me over to the Romans who will mock me, spit on me, flog me and kill me. Three days later I will rise from the dead." Jesus' followers were very upset when they heard this and they tried to persuade Jesus not to go.

One of the men that followed Jesus was called Judas. When they got to Jerusalem, Judas went to the religious leaders and agreed to betray Jesus for 30 silver coins. They paid Judas the money and Judas told them where they could find Jesus. That night the leaders sent many soldiers to go and arrest Jesus. They questioned him all night, but they could not find anything against him. But because Jesus said that he was the Son of God, they got very angry and sentenced him to death. Early that morning they took Jesus to the Roman governor whose name was Pilate. Pilate could not find any wrong in Jesus so he decided to release him.

The leaders then started to stir up the crowd. The governor did not want any trouble so he handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers who mocked him, spat on him and flogged him. The crowd was not happy yet and they shouted "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate then ordered that Jesus be crucified. The soldiers took Jesus to a place called The Skull and crucified him there. Many people came to watch and some said, "If he really is the Son of God, why doesn't he save himself and come down from the cross?" Jesus was on the cross for almost six hours and then he died.

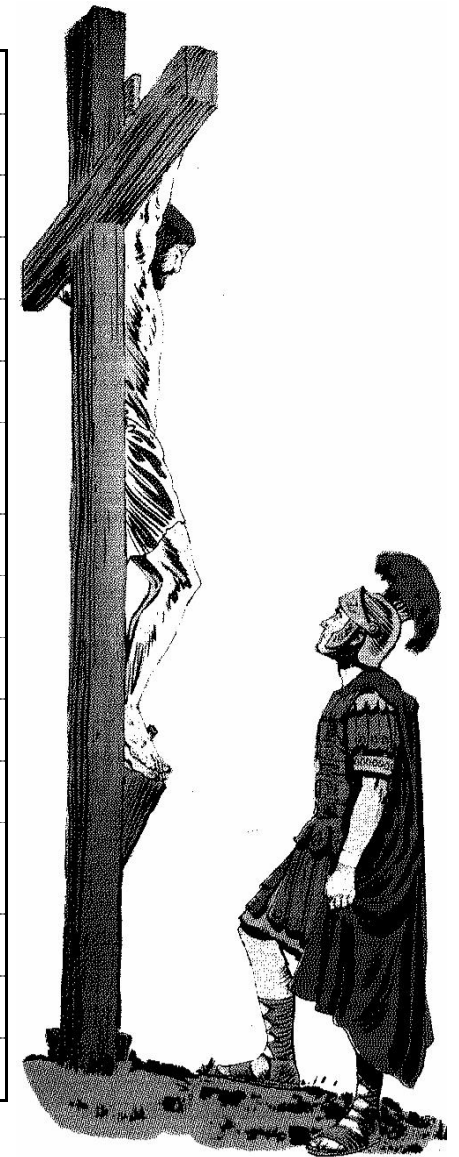
The Bible says

Whoever believes in Jesus is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

ผู้ที่วางใจในพระบุตรก็ไม่ต้องถูกพิพากษาลงโทษ ส่วนผู้ที่มิได้วางใจก็ต้องถูกพิพากษาลงโทษอยู่แล้ว เพราะเขามิได้วางใจในพระนามพระบุตรองค์เดียวของพระเจ้า

Vocabulary

to betray	ทรยศ
to arrest	จับกุม
to sentence	วางกำหนดโทษ
to mock	เย้ยหยัน
to spit	ถ่มน้ำลาย
to flog	โบยตี
to rise from the dead	ขึ้นจากความตาย
to persuade	ชักชวน
to agree	ตกลงกัน
to question	ซักถาม
governor	เจ้าเมือง
to release	ปลดปล่อย
to stir up the crowd	ก่อกวนวุ่นวาย
to crucify	ตรึงบนกางเขน
skull	หัวกะโหลก
cross	ไม้กางเขน



Comprehension

1. Did Jesus know that he was going to die?.....
2. Did Jesus deserve to die?
3. Why didn't Jesus save himself from the cross?.....