



# Intellectual Honesty

Evidence that demands a verdict.

## Did Jesus Die? Intellectual Honesty

### 1. The Story of Passion Week

- a. Today is the historical anniversary of Palm Sunday
- b. Easter moves around because it follows the Jewish calendar, not ours
- c. Here's the overview of the events that happened this week in history

### 2. Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

- a. Have you ever experienced someone else suffering for you? (story of Maw-maw)
- b. Can you relate? We all have stories about how someone suffered for us...
  - i. Our mothers (even if they were not good mothers...)
  - ii. Our parents (if you are a parent you know what I mean...)
  - iii. Our military men and women (captured, killed, away from families...)
- c. Why did Jesus have to die?
  - i. According to the Bible, He had to suffer and die because we needed someone to rescue us from our sins

### 3. Did Jesus Die?

Let's examine the evidence. You've heard the story of what happened this week in history. Let's take a closer look at what those events entailed.

- a. Pilate ordered Jesus to be flogged.
  - i. Horrendous. Inhumane. Women, Roman senators, and Roman soldiers were exempt (unless convicted of desertion).
  - ii. Whip of leather strands with ball bearings or sharp pieces of lamb's bone woven into it. (**scourge**)
  - iii. Tied Jesus to a post and stripped Him of His clothes.
  - iv. Two guards. Either taking turns at the same time or tapping out when they were tired to keep the intensity of the strikes at a max.
  - v. Struck from shoulders and neck to caves.
  - vi. Lacerations. Tears into deep muscle and tissue. Exposes organs and bones.
  - vii. Significant loss of blood. Many died from the flogging.
- b. After He was flogged, they placed a crown of thorns on His head. (**crown of thorns**)
  - i. Crown was likely more like a helmet than a wreath
  - ii. Every time He was struck the thorns were driven deeper into His head.
- c. Once sentenced, Jesus went to be crucified.
  - i. Still regarded as one of the most painful ways for a person to die.
  - ii. Our word "excruciating" was invited to describe the pain "out of the cross."
  - iii. Jesus was made to carry His cross to the place where He would be hung. He collapsed on the way and was physically unable to continue.

- iv. When they arrived, they nailed Him. They didn't have to nail Him in order to kill Him on the cross, but it was far more painful (nerves). **(nails)**
- v. They lifted Him up on the cross.
- vi. Most likely cause of death – asphyxiation (could not breathe).
  - 1. Could have also bled to death.
  - 2. Could have also died of a ruptured heart (trauma induced).
- vii. Jesus hung on the cross for about six hours.
- viii. When He knew His time was over, He prayed, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.
- ix. Jesus died on the cross.
- x. The soldiers responsible had to make sure.
  - 1. They broke the legs of the thieves hanging next to him.
  - 2. They did not break His legs. He was already hanging dead.
  - 3. They went over the top to make sure – they pierced His side. **(spear)**
    - a. Blood and water flowed. A post-mortem condition.
- xi. Jesus hung for some time before being taken down.
  - 1. His body was under surveillance.
  - 2. Later, after His death, Joseph went, got permission, came back, then took down the body.
  - 3. He wrapped the body and placed it in a nearby tomb. The stone was rolled in front.
- xii. Not one account is given to try to discredit the death of Jesus. The Jewish leaders confirmed His death. The Romans confirmed His death. The eye witnesses confirmed His death. Extra-biblical historical writings confirm His death. It was unanimous – Jesus died on the cross.

#### 4. Why Did Jesus Die?

- a. Jesus died because it was the only way. **(Jesus smile)**
  - i. He took responsibility for the failures of His creation.
  - ii. He suffered enough to fully satisfy God's justice.
  - iii. He died on the cross because He loves you and because He was willing to suffer in your place. By His wounds your sins are forgiven.

What will you do with this information? It is evidence that demands a verdict. You cannot pretend like you do not know. You cannot ignore it. You must decide what you will do with what you have heard. Say "Yes" to Jesus. Choose to trust Him for forgiveness of sins. Turn from your sin and follow Jesus.