

Note: *Pilate tried to avoid condemning Jesus to death, but finally acceded to the Jewish leaders. On the way to the Cross, Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene and meets the weeping women of Jerusalem. On the Cross, he asks forgiveness for everyone, is mocked by Jewish leaders, has his clothing gambled for, and promises a place in Heaven for the “good thief.” After he dies, Joseph of Arimathea claims his body and helps the women anoint it.*

1. According to Luke, what is the only question Pilate asks Jesus, and what was his answer? (Luke 23:3)
2. The Jewish leaders told Pilate that Jesus was “stirring up” the people. (Luke 23:5)
 - a. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod for questioning? (Luke 23:6-7)
 - b. Why was Herod glad when he saw Jesus? (Luke 23:8)
 - c. How was Jesus treated by Herod and his soldiers? (Luke 23:11)
 - d. What happened between Herod and Pilate after Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate? (Luke 23:12)
3. Even though Pilate could not find Jesus guilty of any of the charges brought against him, why do you think Pilate changed his mind and had Jesus condemned to crucifixion? (Luke 23:18-24)
4. Roman law granted soldiers in Palestine the right to force civilians into temporary service. Why do you think they seized Simon of Cyrene to help Jesus carry the cross? (Luke 23:26)
5. Jesus’ first words on the cross were, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34) What is the significance of those words to the people who participated in his crucifixion and to us today?
6. What was the difference between the Jewish leaders mocking Jesus and the Roman soldiers mocking him? (Luke 23:34-38)
7. Describe the attitude toward Jesus of the two thieves who were crucified along with him. (Luke 23:39-43)
8. While Jesus was hanging on the cross, there was an eclipse of the sun. (Luke 23:44)
 - a. What happened in the temple during the eclipse? (Luke 23:45)
 - b. What do you think is the significance of this happening?
9. Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. (Luke 23:52)
 - a. What does Luke tell us about Joseph of Arimathea? (Luke 23:50-51)
 - b. What did he do with the body of Jesus? (Luke 23:53)
 - c. What do you think could be the personal consequences for Joseph in going to Pilate and taking the body? (Luke 23:50-51)
10. Who else besides Joseph of Arimathea were witnesses to Jesus being buried in a tomb? (Luke 23:55)

If you would like a challenge?

11. The other evangelists mention the women at the foot of the cross by name. Luke, who normally honors women by name, keeps them anonymous and “at a distance.” (Luke 23:49, 55) Why do you think Luke doesn’t name them and keeps them away from the cross?