

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

Week 25 ~ Exploring Chapter 26:57-27:44

## Personal Study Time:

---

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 26:57-27:44.
- Read Matthew chapters 26:57 to 27:44 through at *least* two times. Then proceed to the following questions and exercises.
  - Matthew 26:57-67 tells us about Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin. Outline the sequence of events in that trial as portrayed by Matthew. Write a paragraph on your general impressions of the trial
- Re-read Matthew 26:69-75, here we find a progressive series of denials by Peter. List the progressive element in each denial along with the implications of each denial
- Re-read Matthew 27:11-26, here Matthew tells us about Jesus' trial before Pilate. List those texts and ideas that provide insight into Pilate's view of Jesus.
  - Study the parallel passages of Jesus' Roman trial in the other Gospels. Why did Pilate finally cave in to the wishes of the Jewish leaders?
  - Read the article on Pilate in a Bible dictionary. What ideas did you gain from that reading which shed light on Matthew's portrayal of him?
- Re-read Chapter 27:32-34 which tells us about Jesus' crucifixion. Then read the entries under cross and crucifixion in a Bible dictionary. Write a short summary on how that information has helped you better understand Jesus' crucifixion.
  - In 27:32 we read of Simon of Cyrene carrying the cross. Using your Bible's maps, find the location of Cyrene. What was a Jew from such a far-off place doing in Jerusalem? See Deuteronomy 16:16, Acts 6:9, and the article on the "diaspora" (or "dispersion") in a Bible dictionary for possible answers.
  - Mark 15:21 names Simon's two sons. What does that imply about Simon?
- Re-read Matthew 27:32-44 and make a list of all the insults heaped upon Jesus while He hung upon the cross. Then add to that list the insults directed at Him in 26:57 to 27:31.
  - What impact do you think these combined insults had on Jesus as He moved toward the cross and hung upon it?

## Application

There are two great temptations in life. The first is not to go to your cross. The second is to get down from the cross and give people what they really deserve. Is the cross firmly planted in your life? If no, what should you do about it? What experiences drive you to get off your cross and act like you did before you were converted? How can you and God work together for victory in each of these situations?

---

<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).