



WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Slide 1

You have certainly seen in a museum, in a book, or in a church, a painting depicting Slide 2 Jesus on the cross. How did you react? Slide 3 The death of Jesus, what does this mean to you? Slide 4 What can this change in your life? Slide 5 These are questions to which we will answer. Pay close attention. In this story, you will find some people Slide 6 who understood why Jesus died on the cross.

We find the account of the crucifixion Slide 7 at the end of the Gospels.

Slide 8 THE CRUCIFIXION

Slide 9 Jesus has just been condemned to death. Slide 10 He carries a heavy cross but He is so exhausted that He walks with great difficulty. He stumbles on the path. A man walks by. He's coming back from the fields.

Slide 11 - Hey! You! Come here! say the soldiers. Take the cross and carry it in his place!

Slide 12 A large crowd follows them. Slide 13 Women moan and cry when they see Jesus disfigured, his body covered with wounds and blood. Others mock and curse Him.

Slide 14 They arrive finally to a place called Golgotha. Slide 15 Jesus is put on the cross. The soldiers hammer nails in His hands and in His feet. They also crucify two robbers, one to his right and the other to his left. Slide 16 They hang a sign above Jesus' head.

Slide 17 - You will write Slide 18 "Jesus, King of the Jews"! Pilate had ordered. People must know why He was condemned!

Jesus looks at the soldiers, these violent men with such hard hearts.

With a loud voice, He says:

Slide 19 - Father! I beg you to forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.

Slide 20 Four soldiers are busy with something else.

- Let's take His clothes! They say. Let's share them among us. Slide 21 A piece for each!

Slide 22 One of them is about to rip the tunic.

- No! The others cry. It is made in one piece and in a beautiful fabric. It has value.

Slide 23 Let's draw lots and see who will take it.

Slide 24 The crowd continues to curse Jesus.

Slide 25 - Come down, if you are the Son of God! **Slide 26** Go on!

They arrogantly laugh.

Slide 27 - He who worked miracles let Him come down now and we will believe in him!

Slide 28 The two thieves insult him.

Slide 29 - If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself and save us!

But one of them pulls himself together. He now understands why Jesus is on the cross.

Slide 30 - Don't you fear God? He says to the other. Don't you know that we will all owe explanations to him? **Slide 31** Today we are paying for the abominable things that we have done. We are guilty before men but also before God! **Slide 32** But as for Jesus, He didn't do anything wrong. He turns his head to the Lord.

Slide 33 - Jesus! He says. Remember me when you enter your reign!

Slide 34 - I assure you, Jesus says to him, today you will be with me in paradise!

Slide 35 At the foot of the cross, there are a few women. They are crying, crushed by pain and grief. **Slide 36** Jesus sees Mary, His mother and beside her, John, his disciple.

Slide 37 - Here is your son! He says to His mother.

Slide 38 - There's your mother! He says to John.

John understood Jesus' message well. Mary came to live with him. He took care of her and Mary was like a mother to him.

Slide 39 At the end of the morning, the sun is high in the sky. But suddenly **Slide 40** people look at each other in fear.

Slide 41 - What's happening? It is noon and it is dark! What does that mean?

Slide 42 It's night in broad daylight!

Slide 43 Yes! The country is plunged into darkness. The sun remains completely hidden until three o'clock in the afternoon. Jesus is still on the cross. He is dying.

With a loud voice, He cries out:

Slide 44 - My God, my God, why did you abandon me?

Then, He adds: **Slide 45** - I am thirsty!

Slide 46 The soldiers soak a sponge in vinegar and approach it to his mouth with a reed. Jesus takes it and says:

- Now **Slide 47** everything is accomplished! My Father, I surrender my spirit into your hands!

Slide 48 He utters a loud cry. He has just died.

The Roman officer at the foot of the cross is devastated. He cries out in front of everyone:

Slide 49 - For sure! Jesus is truly the Son of God!

Slide 50 - But what's going on? Cry frightened people. **Slide 51** The earth is shaking! We can feel it move!

Yes! It's an earthquake! **Slide 52** The rock splits, sepulchres open. **Slide 53** In the Temple, the large curtain that is several meters high splits from top to the bottom. An invisible hand tore it apart. **Slide 54** A Roman soldier approaches Jesus. He pierces His side with his spear to check that he is dead. **Slide 55** Later, a man goes to see Pilate.

Slide 56 - Let me take the body of Jesus, he says to him.

Slide 57 He prepares the body, wraps it in several layers of material **Slide 58** and places it in a tomb carved in the rock.

Slide 59 A large stone is rolled to close the entrance to the sepulchre.

Slide 60 Night is falling on Jerusalem which is deeply moved by these events. Everything seems quite finished.

Slide 61 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*No one can say how much Jesus loves us. He endured all this suffering in His body but also in His Spirit, in His soul for us. **Slide 62** But why did he accept? **Slide 63** Did you understand it? In the story a few people did understand. **Slide 64** Can you name them?*

Slide 65 Yes, there is one of the thief and **Slide 66** the Roman officer; maybe there were others but we don't know. Let's see what the robber understood.

*First of all, **Slide 67** that he is accountable to God and **Slide 68** that he cannot go to paradise because God is Righteous and Holy, nothing bad can stand in His presence. He also understood **Slide 69** that Jesus is punished, condemned in his place so that God can forgive him. He believes **Slide 70** that Jesus is the Son of God and after **Slide 71** His death He will reign in heaven.*

*Jesus died on the cross so that all humans **Slide 72** who believe in Him can go to heaven. All humans that means others but also You and me. Do you love Jesus? Do you believe in him? Do you think He was punished for you because of your disobedience?*

Slide 73 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

The account of the crucifixion, which is very discreet about the sufferings of Jesus, is the central message of the Word of God. Without the cross, no one could be saved.

Slide 74 *It was out of love for us that Jesus endured all these sufferings. His words of love and His attitude, until His last cry, show us how much He has loved us.*

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