



Triumphant entry to Jerusalem

We begin at Jesus entry into Jerusalem, week before the crucifixion. Jerusalem was packed with Jewish worshippers who have come to mark the Passover when the High Priest would offer a sacrifice to God to pay for the sins of the whole nation. A time for anew start. The most significant time in the Israel's calendar...

Matthew 21:1-7 NLT

1 As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. 2 "Go into the village over there," he said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

4 This took place to fulfil the prophecy that said,

5 "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey - riding on a donkey's colt.'"

Triumphant entry to Jerusalem

Jesus came to fulfil the prophecy and promise that a messiah a saviour would come to save Israel from their enemies and setup a new Kingdom greater than all the kingdoms of the world.

They were hoping Jesus would be this Hero. He would lead them to over throw the Roman Empire that ruled them. Jesus was indeed the hero, but a different kind a hero.

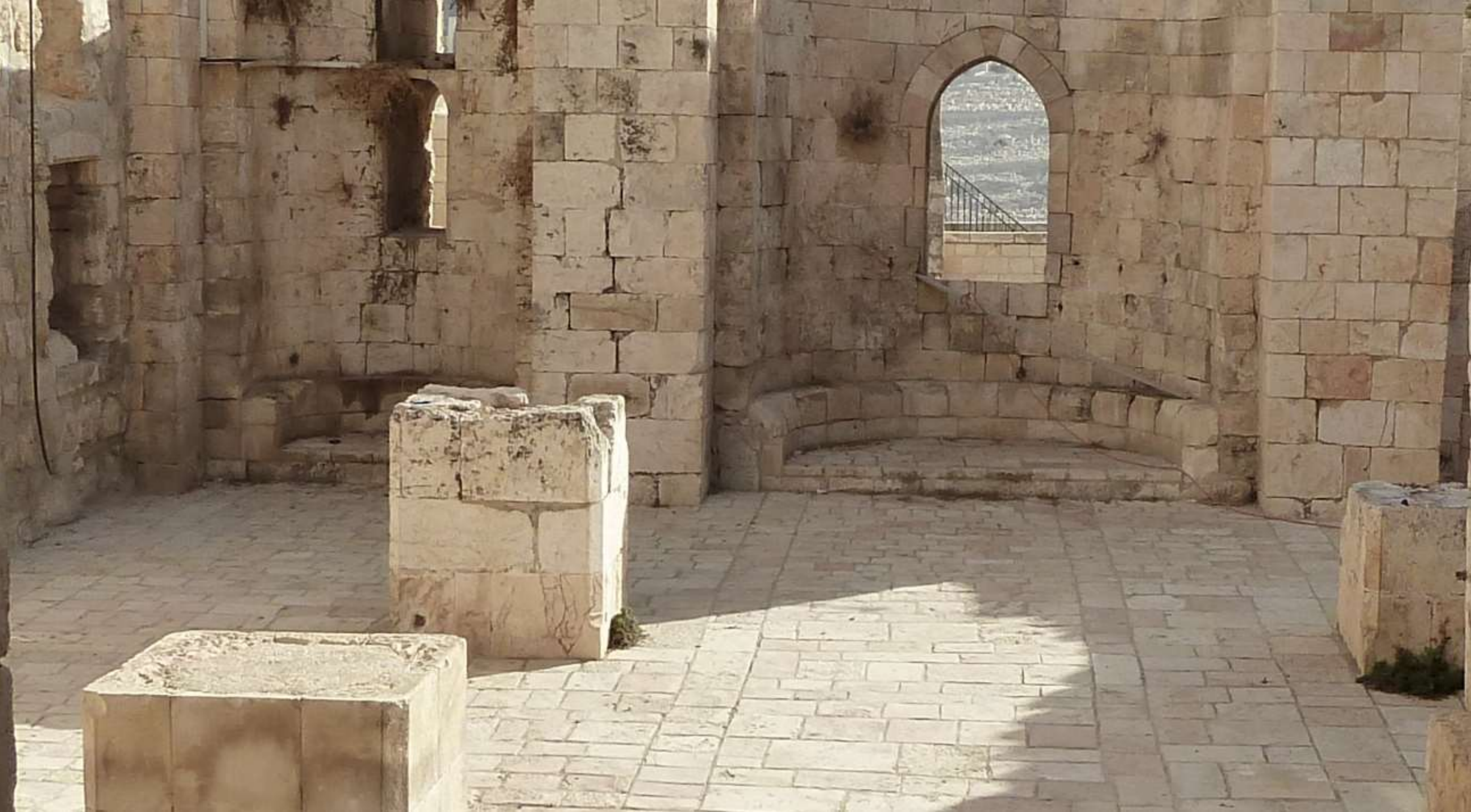
But this hero would come in meekness and humbleness. As a servant. Born in humble circumstances in a stable, raised in humble circumstances as a carpenter's son.

Matthew 21:1-7 NLT

His life was marked by obedience and service. He did come to save but NOT by war but by to dying to set us free from the real enemy.

The real enemy was not other men or kingdoms, it was rebelliousness and disobedience to God in the hearts of all mankind.

This hero came to offer himself in our place, to take our punishment for our sins. Jesus would become our Passover sacrifice. A different kind of Hero.



Triumphant entry to Jerusalem

6 The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.

8 Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9

Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

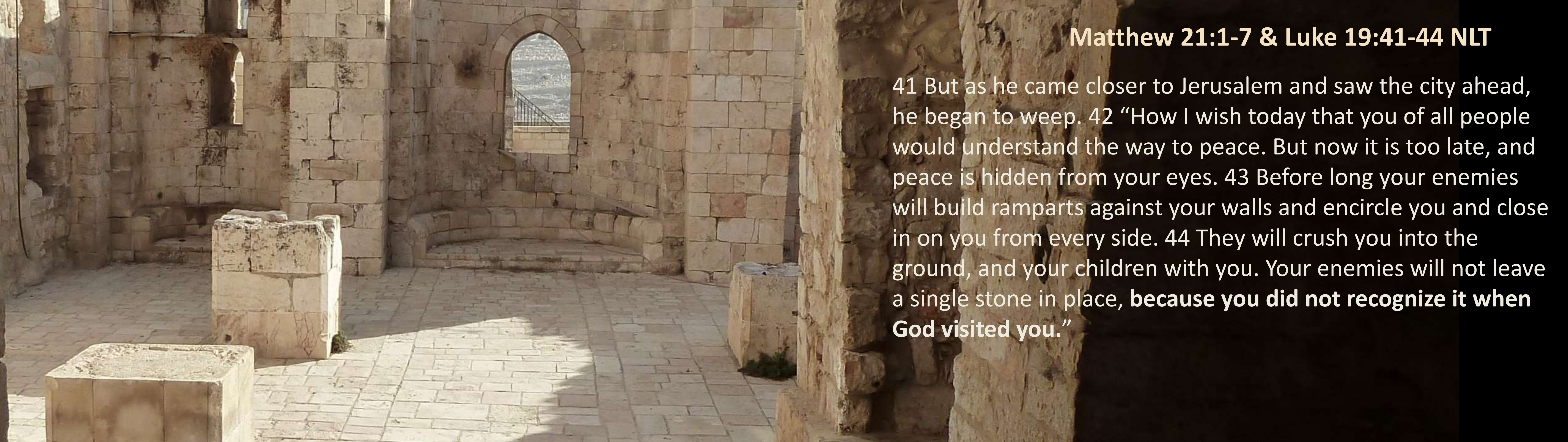
“Praise God, for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!”

10 The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. “Who is this?” they asked.

11 And the crowds replied, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Matthew 21:1-7 & Luke 19:41-44 NLT

41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. 42 “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. 43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, **because you did not recognize it when God visited you.**”





Question: Who are you in this story?

From the moment, he entered, to the night before the cross he reminded his disciple that the messiah must die for the sins of world. Without this sacrifice, there would be no forgiveness and no hope of returning into relationship with God who is the source of life. The problems of the world both then and now are the results of this broken relationship with God.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Jesus would use the Passover meal, the final meal before he would go to the cross to remind them of this.

This is the communion in which we celebrate Jesus's life, death & resurrection, every time we meet.



The Upper Room & Passover Meal

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal for you?"

18 "As you go into the city," he told them, "you will see a certain man. Tell him, 'The Teacher says: My time has come, and I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover meal there.

20 When it was evening, Jesus sat down at the table with the Twelve. 21 While they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

Matthew 26:21-29 NLT

22 Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one, Lord?"

23 He replied, "One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me. 24 For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

25 Judas, the one who would betray him, also asked, "Rabbi, am I the one?"

And Jesus told him, "You have said it."



The Upper Room & Passover Meal: Matthew 26:21-30 NLT

26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body."

27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, 28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

29 Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."



New Commandment: John 12:31, 33-36

31 As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, "The time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory, and God will be glorified because of him. 33 Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going. 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."



New Commandment: John 12:31, 33-36

As the disciples shared the bread and the wine they pondered Jesus words.

As we join the disciples let us also ponder his words.

Perhaps as you put yourself in the scene with Jesus you may ask yourself who could I be in this story?

Jesus is here in the communion, invite him to speak to you and be willing to follow.

Communion is served

Transition to the Garden: Matthew 26:30

30 Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.



Garden of Gethsemane

27 On the way, Jesus told them, “All of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, ‘God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’

28 But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.”

29 Peter said to him, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.”

30 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.”

31 “No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the others vowed the same.

Mark 14:27-49 NLT

32 They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” 33 He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed.

34 He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

35 He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. 36 “Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

Garden of Gethsemane

37 Then he returned and found the disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? 38 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

39 Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. 40 When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn’t keep their eyes open. And they didn’t know what to say.

41 When he returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”

Mark 14:27-49 NLT

43 And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders. 44 The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.” 45 As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. “Rabbi!” he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss.

46 Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. 47 But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest’s slave, slashing off his ear.

Garden of Gethsemane: Mark 14:27-49 NLT

48 Jesus asked them, “Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? 49 Why didn’t you arrest me in the Temple? I was there among you teaching every day. But these things are happening to fulfil what the Scriptures say about me.”

The guards lead Jesus away as a common criminal. They staged a mock trial full of false witnesses with one aim in mind and that was to sentence him to death. But the sentence of death could only be carried out by the Roman occupying authority. They needed to convince the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilot to execute Jesus.

Jesus’ Trial Before Pilate: Mark 15

1 Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

2 Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

3 Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, 4 and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” 5 But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

Garden of Gethsemane: Mark 14:27-49 NLT

6 Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. 7 One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. 8 The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual.

9 "Would you like me to release to you this 'King of the Jews'?" Pilate asked. 10 (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) 11 But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. 12 Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?"

Jesus' Trial Before Pilate: Mark 15

13 They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

14 "Why?" Pilate demanded. "What crime has he committed?" But the mob roared even louder, "Crucify him!"

15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.



The Crucifixion

26 As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

32 Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. 33 When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

Luke 23:26, 32-47 NLT

Crucifixion –is the cruellest form of execution devised by man. The Roman Empire reserved it for the worst crimes such as treason and murder by non-citizens of Rome. Nails were driven through flesh and bone of hands and feet. The body would be dislocated when the cross was dropped onto place. The position caused the person to drown in their own lung fluid. The person would push up with their feet to breath only to experience the pain of the nails. They would only be stretching out their time to die. They would slowly suffocate. Death would be slow often days.

Jesus response?

The Crucifixion

34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

35 The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “He saved others,” they said, “let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” 36 The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. 37 They called out to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 A sign was fastened above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

Luke 23:26, 32-47 NLT

39 One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you’re the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you’re at it!”

40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.”

43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The Crucifixion: Luke 23:26, 32-47 NLT

In the two criminals, we see two hearts.

Firstly, the heart of rebellion and unrepentant pride even in the face of death.

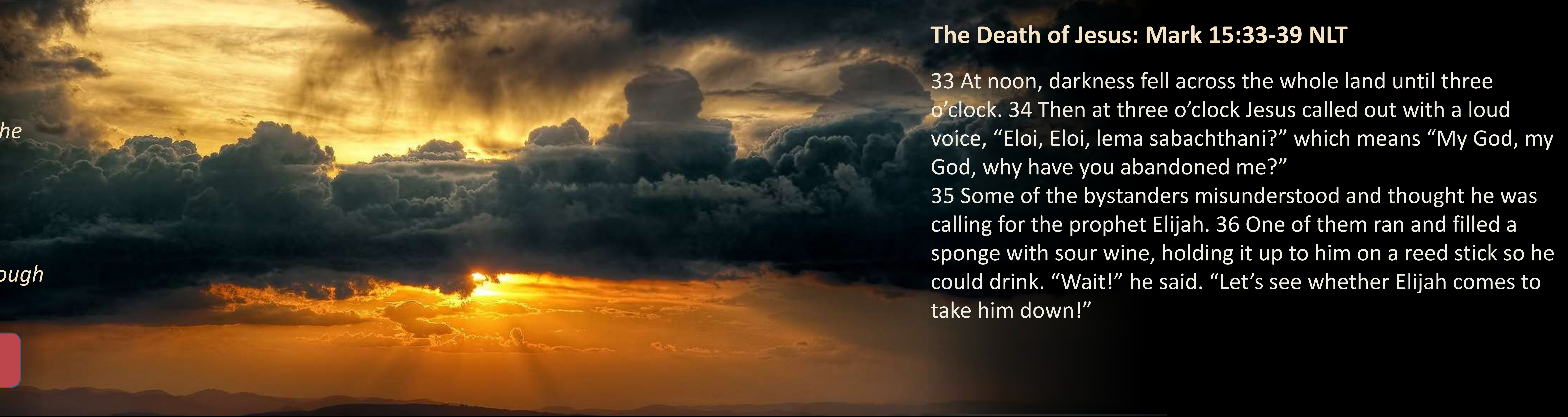
*The other is one that recognises God's outstretched hand of forgiveness to them. That person is willing to acknowledge their sin and need for forgiveness and ready to trust God through death. In many *ways, we are all criminals.*

Who are you in this picture? The one on the right or left?

The Death of Jesus: Mark 15:33-39 NLT

33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

35 Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 36 One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!"



The Death of Jesus: Mark 15:33-39 NLT

37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed,

“This man truly was the Son of God!”

The Death of Jesus: Mark 15:33-39

Who are you in the Easter story?

The answer to that question, just as for the criminals has eternal significance.

The story does not end there. Three days later on Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead as sign that sacrifice had been accepted and he indeed could provide life for all who would believe on him.

That is the story on Sunday. Please come and join us then.

