



Matt 26:1-27:66

The Dark Tragedy of Calvary

I. Introduction: From a human perspective, the cross appeared to be a divine tragedy, a sad series of events that led to the death of the Messiah at the hands of vile sinners.

II. The Dark Tragedy of Calvary (Matt 26:1-27:66).

A. Malicious Betrayal (Matt 26:14-16, 47-56).

1. Judas appeared to be one of Jesus' most trusted disciples, but in the last moments of His life, Judas betrayed the Savior for a fist full of silver coins.

B. Deliberate Injustice (John 18:13-24; Matt 26:57-68; Luke 22:66-71).

1. The Pharisees and Sadducees put Jesus on trial in the most careless way in a complete miscarriage of human justice, bypassing all rules of their courts.

C. Political Expediency (Matt 27:1-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38).

1. The Jews brought Jesus to the Roman governor Pilate who crucified Jesus to avoid political difficulties with the Jewish leaders.

D. Inhumane Brutality (Matt 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19).

1. Pilate turned Jesus over to the Roman Praetorian, who abused Jesus to amuse themselves before executing Him like a common criminal.

E. Murderous Rage (Matt 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19).

1. The Romans led Jesus to Calvary, where they crucified Him, making a mockery of His life and executing Him to satisfy their bloodthirsty desires.

III. Conclusion: Jesus was brutally crucified at Calvary according to God's divine plan, which He accomplished so that He could make eternal life available for all humanity.



Questions About: The Dark Tragedy of Calvary

1. What is the darkest day in human history? What made the crucifixion of Jesus so tragic? Who did Peter say was responsible for the death of Jesus? (**Acts 2:36; 3:12-15**)
2. How was Jesus maliciously betrayed? (**Matt 26:14-16, 47-56**) What motivated Judas to give Jesus over to the Jews? (**vv. 14-16**) How did Judas know where to find Him? (**Luke 21:37**)
3. How was Jesus treated unjustly by the Jews? (**John 18:13-24; Matt 26:57-68; Luke 22:66-71**) When did they first conspire to kill Him? (**John 11:47-50**) Why was this ironic?
4. How did they try to coerce Jesus to incriminate Himself? (**John 18:13-24; Matt 26:57-68; Luke 22:66-71**) Why was this illegal? For what crime did they indict Him? (**Matt 26:62-68**)
5. Why did the Jews take Jesus to Pilate? (**Matt 27:1-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38**) How did Pilate try to get rid of Him? Why did he ultimately agree to crucify Him?
6. What did Pilate's soldiers do with Jesus? (**Matt 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-20**) What was the purpose of dressing Jesus in a robe and crown? How did they torture and humiliate Christ?
7. How did the Jews convince Pilate to crucify Jesus? (**Matt 27:22-26**) Why were victims led through the streets? (**Matt 27:31-32**) How did the Jews further mock Him? (**Matt 27:38-44**)
8. What miraculous signs accompanied Jesus' crucifixion? (**Matt 27:45-54**) Why was Jesus' death not a tragedy? (**John 10:17-18**) How was this God's plan? (**Acts 2:23-24**)

Prayer

1. Ask God to show you how He can turn the darkest tragedies into divine victories.
2. Pray that Jesus might give you the courage to share Christ with those who need salvation.