

Women's Bible Study
Discussion Questions

Matthew 27

1. In the space of a few pages, Matthew contrasts the denial of Peter, the betrayal of Judas and now the reaction of Judas. What are we to understand about Judas's decisions here? How do Judas's decisions compare to Peter's decisions about what he did after Jesus's death (see John 20:3)?

2. How do the crowd, Pilate, the Roman soldiers and Jesus define kingship? Be sure to look at vs.11, 29, 37, 42.

3. Most of the Sanhedrin, the crowd assembled in the courtyard, and Pilate are all instrumental in the passing and execution of the death sentence on Jesus. Why does Matthew stress all of these factions? Who *is* responsible for Jesus's death?

4. Although artists did not begin depicting the death of Jesus until over 400 years after his death, later artists do, often and graphically. Yet Matthew and the other gospel writers spend very little time describing the actual process of crucifixion. What do you think Matthew's emphasis is on instead of the gruesome details? Do we still think of this death shameful, hard to look at, or even impossible?

5. Why is it important to tell the part that Joseph of Arimathea played in the story of Jesus's death? What else do we know about him (see John 19:38, Luke 23:50-51)?

6. Why is it important to tell the part that the centurion and other Roman soldiers played in the story of Jesus's death? How does the story of Joseph and the Roman soldiers deepen your understanding of the meaning of the death of Jesus?