



NEW TESTAMENT VOLUME 12: Life of Christ Part 12

# THE CRUCIFIXION, Part 2

## *Christ's Sacrifice, Our Salvation*

Author: Ruth B. Greiner    Illustrator: Frances H. Hertzler

Computer Graphic Artists: Ed Olson, Melody Mayer

Proofreaders: Audrey Brubaker, Kristin Mayer, Sharon Neal, Dr Charles Piepgrass Elinor Rogers

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: LaRue and Mark Bowser

Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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Phone: (717) 859-1131    Web: [www.biblevisuals.org](http://www.biblevisuals.org)

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### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

### Lesson #1

## JESUS DENIED AND ACCUSED

**Scripture to be studied:** Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27.

**The aim of the lesson:** To show that though Christians may determine to do right, sometimes they fail.

**What your students should know:** Jesus loves them even if they do wrong. He is willing to forgive them if they confess their sin.

**What your students should feel:** The need of forgiveness when they sin.

**What your students should do:** Ask the Lord Jesus to forgive their sin. Tell Him they love Him.

**Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):**

1. The disciples forsake Jesus (John 18:12-24).
2. Jesus is taken to the rulers and falsely accused (Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65).
3. Peter denies Christ three times (Matthew 26:69-74; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-60; John 18:25-27).
4. The Lord Jesus continues to love Peter (Matthew 26:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61-62).

**The verse to be memorized:**

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

### THE LESSON

#### 1. THE DISCIPLES FORSAKE JESUS

John 18:12-24

Peter was running! James and John were running! Nathanael and the other disciples were running! They were running from the Garden of Gethsemane, leaving Jesus alone with the soldiers who had bound Him. Peter and his companions were afraid. What awful things would happen next?

Only a few hours before Peter had promised Jesus, "I will never desert You, even if all the others run away. I will lay down my life for You. I will not deny You." Yet at this very moment Peter was deserting Jesus. He was running away. How could he

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Again (as in the previous volume) we see certain prophetic Scriptures fulfilled in the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this first lesson:

The disciples of Christ forsake Him (Zechariah 13:7).

Peter, one of His closest disciples, denies Christ three times as prophesied by the Lord Himself (Matthew 26:34; Mark 14:30; Luke 22:34; John 13:38).

Jesus remains silent when the witnesses lie about Him (Isaiah 53:7).

His enemies hit Him and spit on Him (Isaiah 50:6).

According to the plan of God, the Lord Jesus was to die for the sin of the world. Nothing could keep Him from accomplishing this purpose.

You will want to stress this truth: it is possible for a believer to determine to do what is right (as Peter had done), and to fail (as Peter did). As the Lord Jesus prayed for Peter, so He prays for us: that our faith will not fail; that if we sin, we will return to Him (Luke 22:31-32).

have forgotten his promise so quickly? How could he and the other disciples leave Jesus alone in the hands of His enemies?

Troubled thoughts were filling Peter's mind: *Where will they take Jesus? What will they do to Him? Surely Jesus understands that if I had stayed with Him I would have been captured, too.* Peter knew he should not be running away. Suddenly he stopped. He determined to return and follow Jesus—but at a safe distance.

Another disciple, John, decided to turn back with Peter. Through the dark night they followed the mob as they led Jesus from the garden. They took Him to Annas who was waiting. (Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest, had once been the high priest, so he still held some authority.) It was to Annas that the officers first led Jesus.

John, who knew Annas, entered the courtyard with the officers. But Peter had to wait outside until John convinced a

maid to let Peter in. It was a cool night and the servants and officers gathered about the fire to warm themselves.



### Show Illustration #1

Quietly Peter joined them. The maid who had let Peter in watched him closely. At last she asked, "Are you also a disciple of that Man?" She was referring of course to the Lord Jesus.

"I am not!" Peter answered quickly.

At that same time Jesus was being questioned by Annas in a room alongside the courtyard. The questions were about

His disciples and His teachings.

Jesus answered, "What I have taught is well known. I preached in the synagogue and in the temple. Some of the Jewish leaders who heard Me are here. Ask them what I said."

One of the officers standing nearby slapped Jesus. "Is that the way to answer the high priest?" he demanded.

Jesus answered, "If I have said something wrong, tell Me of it. But if I have spoken the truth, why did you strike Me?"

No one could answer. No one could think of one wrong thing Jesus had said or done. He had done only what was right.

Annas had no more questions for Jesus. "Take Him to Caiaphas," he ordered.

## 2. JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE RULERS AND FALSELY ACCUSED

Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65



### Show Illustration #2

Then Jesus, His hands tied tightly behind Him, was led to the house of Caiaphas (probably located on another side of the courtyard). Caiaphas was the high priest of God. He was to speak to God for men. He was also to speak to men for God. But he was sinful. He did not accept the Lord Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God.

Caiaphas was not alone in his room. The Sanhedrin, a council of 70 judges, had met with him. The chief priests were there too. They had been busy searching out men who would speak against Jesus. The witnesses were brought forward to testify. One witness told of something which, he said, he had heard Jesus say. Another witness reported something else. Still another told a different story. But none of the witnesses said the same thing. According to the Jewish law no man could be condemned unless at least two people testified exactly alike. Why did the witnesses not agree? Because they were telling lies.

Then two more witnesses said: "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" What Jesus had really said was: "Destroy this temple [My body] (See John 2:21.) and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). But even these two witnesses did not agree perfectly in their testimonies. (See Mark 14:59.)

When the witnesses finished speaking, Caiaphas turned to Jesus and asked, "Have You no answer to all these charges against You?"

But Jesus did not answer.

The high priest spoke again: "I command You by the living God to tell us: Are you the Christ, the Son of God?"

Jesus said, "I am."

Angrily the high priest tore his clothes. He shouted, "We do not need any other witnesses! You have all heard the blasphemy! What do you say?" (Blasphemy is claiming to be God or speaking against God.)

"He is guilty! He deserves to die!" they all shouted.

Some spit in Jesus' face. Others slapped His face. One put a blindfold on Him while another slapped Him. "Tell us now who hit You, if You are really a prophet!" they shouted. Laughingly they mocked Him.

But Jesus did not strike back. He did not stop the men from hurting Him. He did not hate those who hated Him. He knew His time to suffer had come.

## 3. PETER DENIES CHRIST THREE TIMES

Matthew 26:69-74; Mark 14:66-72;  
Luke 22:54-60; John 18:25-27

Peter, meanwhile, slipped quietly away from the fire and to the porch which led out to the street. While he waited there expecting to learn what would happen to Jesus, he heard a rooster crow. Instantly he should have remembered Jesus' warning that before the rooster crowed twice, he would deny the Son of God three times. But Peter did not remember. Instead of repenting and getting closer to Jesus, Peter seemed to get farther away.

Another maid who saw Peter turned to some of the men, saying, "This man also was with Jesus."



### Show Illustration #3

"I do not even know Him!" Peter shouted with a curse.

A man standing nearby said, "But you are one of them."

"I am not!" Peter roared.

About an hour later another man glared knowingly at Peter. He was a servant of the high priest and a relative of Malchus (whose ear Peter had cut off). "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" he asked. "I am sure you were with Him. You talk like a Galilean."

Again Peter cursed. "I do not know what you are talking about," he sneered. "I do not know that Man!" While Peter was still talking, he heard the rooster crow a second time.

## 4. THE LORD JESUS CONTINUES TO LOVE PETER

Matthew 26:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:61-62



### Show Illustration #4

At that very moment Peter saw Jesus looking at him. It was a sad look, but a loving look. Peter then remembered Jesus' words: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." It had happened exactly as Jesus said it would, though Peter had insisted he would never deny his Lord.

Immediately Peter ran away to a quiet place where he could be alone. There he wept bitterly.

Peter had learned a hard lesson. In his own strength he could not do what was right. In his weakness he had failed the Lord Jesus. He truly loved the Lord. Now he had sworn, declaring

he never even knew Him. Yet, in spite of his great sin, Jesus loved him.

Like Peter, we are weak. At times we grieve the Lord Jesus by the things we say and do. Yet Jesus loves us and is willing

to answer our prayer for forgiveness. (See 1 John 1:9.) Have you asked Him to forgive your sin? Have you thanked Him for His love?