

MATTHEW 27

THE DEATH OF JUDAS (27:1-10)

St. John Chrysostom on why Judas sinned by hanging himself:

To hang himself, this again was unpardonable and a work of an evil spirit. For the devil led him out of his repentance too soon, so that he should reap no fruit from it, and carried him off by a most disgraceful death, and one manifest to all, having persuaded him to destroy himself.

CHRIST AND PONTIUS PILATE (27:11-26)

St. John Chrysostom on why Pilate allowed Christ to be crucified:

Why then did Pilate allow him to be sacrificed? Why didn't he rescue him, like the centurion had rescued Paul (Acts 27:1-44)...He was extremely cowardly and weak. He joined in their corruption. He did not stand firm against the bullying crowd...In every way he allowed them an excuse.

CHRIST IS MOCKED BY THE SOLDIERS (27:27-31)

Blessed Theophylact on the spiritual meaning of the scarlet robe and crown of thorns:

The scarlet cloak reveals our nature, bloody and murderous, which He assumed and sanctified by wearing it. The crown is made of thorns which are the sins resulting from our cares for this life; these Christ consumes with His own divinity, for His head represents His divinity. The reed is a symbol of our weak and crumbling nature which the Lord assumed...

CHRIST IS CRUCIFIED AND DIES (27:32- 56)

St. Epiphanius of Cyprus on what happened when Christ was crucified:

What thing is this? Today there is great silence upon the earth, great silence and stillness, verily great silence, for the King sleeps. The earth was frightened and became still, for God fell asleep in the flesh and raised up those who from ages past were sleeping. God died in the flesh and Hades shuddered. God slumbered briefly, and those in Hades He awoke.

CHRIST IS BURIED (27:57-66)

St. John Chrysostom on imitating St. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary:

Do you see these women's courage? See their depth of affection? See their noble spirit in providing? See their noble spirit even to death? Let us men imitate these women! Let us not forsake Jesus in times of trial! These women exposed their lives so much for Him even when He was dead...But we men, I repeat, neither feed Him when hungry nor clothe Him when naked. Seeing Him begging, we pass Him by.

Find more study guides and other resources online at orthodoxyouth.org/matthew.

Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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