



Quaker Universalist Voice

Luke 23–24: Jesus' Death Translated for Children

by J.M. Spears

Luke 23

1. And, the whole group got up and took Jesus to Pilate.
2. They started accusing Jesus, “We found this person misleading our people. He was urging them not to pay taxes to Caesar*. He was saying he is chosen by God to be a king.”
3. Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you king of the Jews?”
Jesus answered, “You are the one who says so.”
4. Pilate spoke to the religious leaders and the crowds, “I find this person not guilty.”
5. “But, Jesus has been stirring up the people all over Judea. Jesus has been teaching everywhere, from Galilee even up to here.” they insisted.
6. When Pilate heard this, he asked, “Is this person from Galilee?” 7. So. Pilate learned that Jesus as from the state where Herod had power. Then Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during these days.
8. Herod was very glad to see Jesus. For a long time, Herod had wanted to see Jesus. Herod had heard about Jesus and was hoping to see a powerful act done by Jesus.
9. Herod asked Jesus many questions. But, Jesus did not answer Herod.
10. The religious leaders and teachers of the law stood up and fiercely accused Jesus. 11. Then, even Herod and his soldiers were making fun of Jesus and being mean to him.
Herod put a bright robe on Jesus and sent Jesus back to Pilate. 12. Herod and Pilate became close friends that very day. Before that, they had hated each other.
13. Pilate called together the religious leaders, the officials, and the people.
14. Pilate said to them, “You brought to me this person as one who is leading the people wrong. Now listen. I have asked many questions while you watched. I have found nothing of the crime of which you accuse him. 15. And neither has Herod. For Herod send Jesus back to us. Now listen! 16. So, I will punish Jesus. Then, I will let Jesus go.
18. Then, all together, they shouted, “Take away Jesus! But, let Barabbas* come to us.” 19. (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for a riot in the city and for killing.) 20. Pilate wanted to let Jesus go. So, once more, Pilate spoke to the religious leaders, the officials, and the people. 21. But, they kept shouting, “A cross! A cross! Kill! Kill him!”

22. Then, for the third time, Pilate said to them, “What harm did this person do? I have found nothing in Jesus deserving death. Therefore, I will punish Jesus and let him go.”

23. But, with loud shouts, they kept demanding that Jesus be killed.

24. And Pilate made the official decision that their demand should be met.

25. So, Pilate let Barabbas go. Barabbas was the one who had been thrown in prison for riot and killing. He was the one they asked for. But, Jesus? Pilate gave the leaders, officials, and people what they wanted.

26. The leaders, officials, and people led Jesus away. And they took hold of Simon, a person from the city of Cyrene, who was coming in from outside the city. They laid the cross on Simon. Then, Simon took up the cross to carry behind Jesus.

27. And a large crowd of people followed. The women cried with sadness and showed deep sorrow and grief.

28. And, turning toward them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not cry for me, but cry for yourselves and for your children.

29. Now, listen! Cry, because days are coming in which your children will say, ‘Good for those who cannot give birth and the uteruses that never gave life. Good for the breasts that never gave food.’

30. Then, they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall down on us!’ And they will say to the hills, ‘Bury us!’

31. For if these things are done with wet wood, what will happen with dry wood?”

32. Two others were also being led to be put to death. They were criminals who were to be killed with Jesus.

33. They came up to the place called “The Skull.” There, they nailed Jesus to a cross. They also crucified* the criminals. One was on the right, the other on the left, of Jesus.

34.(b) They dropped the deciding stones to decide how to divide Jesus’ clothes among themselves.

35. The people stood there looking on. Also, the officials kept sneering, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself, if he is the one chosen by God, God’s favorite.”

36. And then, soldiers made fun of Jesus. They came up to Jesus, offering cheap, sour wine,

37. and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.”

38. And on a sign over Jesus was written, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

39. One of the criminals who was hanged kept insulting Jesus, saying, “Aren’t you God’s chosen one? Then, save yourself and us, too!”

40. But, the other criminal answered with a warning, “Aren’t you even afraid of the God in whose judgment you are the same?”

41. We deserve punishment for what we did, but this one did nothing wrong.”

42. And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you are leader.”

43. And, Jesus said to him, “Believe what I tell you. Today, you will be with me in the garden of God.”

44. Now, it was about noon. Gloom and grief hung over all the land until three o’clock in the afternoon.

45. The sun’s light was going out. Then, the curtain of the inner temple* was split apart.

46. And, with a loud cry, Jesus said, “Creator, into your hands I give my life.” After saying this, life left Jesus.

47. And seeing this happening, the Roman military officer honored and thanked God, saying, “This was truly a good person.”

48. And the crowds had all gathered together to see this public event. When they became aware of just what had happened, they returned, showing how deeply sorry they were.

49. All those who Jesus knew stood away and watched. Some were the women who came with Jesus from Galilee.

50-51. Now, listen! There was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish city of Arimathea. He was good to people and God, doing what was right. He wanted God to rule. He was a member of the Supreme Jewish Council.

Joseph did not agree with the Council's decision or what the Council did. 52.

Joseph went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53. Joseph took the body down. He wrapped it in a linen cloth. He laid Jesus' body in the tomb cut out of rock. No one had ever been buried in that tomb before.

54. It was near the end of the day to prepare, and the Sabbath* was about to begin. 55. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed along. They saw the tomb. They saw how the body of Jesus was placed. 56(a). And returning, they got sweet smelling spices and balsam oil ready to put specially on the body of Jesus.

Luke 24:

Luke 56 (b). Of course, they rested on the Seventh Day of the Week* to obey the Law of Moses. Luke 24:1 But on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb carrying the spices that they had prepared. This was just as the sun was coming up,

2. and they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. 3. When they went in, they did not see the body. 4. They were confused about this.

Now, listen! Then, two figures in shining clothes were close by them. 5. The women were filled with fear*. They turned their faces toward the earth. The figures said to the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead. 6. The one you seek is not here, but was raised. Remember! Recall the way the living one spoke to you while you were still in Galilee. 7. 'It is God's plan that the one born human be handed over into the power of people who live without God, and be killed, and on the third day rise up!'"

8. The women remembered. They recalled the words. 9. They went back and reported all of this news to the eleven, and to all the others.

10. Mary from Magdela, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them, kept repeating these things to the ones sent out.

11. But, to those apostles*, the words of the women seemed to be nonsense.

12. The apostles were not believing the women.

13. Now, listen! On that same day, two of these apostles were going to a town called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14. They talked to each other about all the things that had happened. 15. And it happened that in their talking and discussing, Jesus, the same one they were talking about, came near and went with them, 16. But, their understanding eyes were held closed. They did not know who was with them.

17. And the stranger asked them, "What is this you are talking about while you are walking?"

And they stood deep in thought.

18 Then, the one named Cleopas answered, “Are you the only one so strange visiting Jerusalem? Are you the only one who does not know about the happenings there in these days?”

19. The stranger asked, “What kind of happenings?”

They replied, “About Jesus from the town of Nazareth. This person was a great prophet*. Jesus was powerful, in work and in word, in the sight of the one God and all the people of God.

20. And our religious leaders and officers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. And they killed Jesus on a cross! 21. But, we were hoping that Jesus would be the one to bring freedom* to Israel. Also, in addition to all that, this is the third day since these things happened.

22. And, some of the women gave us an amazing shock. They were at the tomb early. 23. They did not find the person of Jesus. Then, an understanding came to them from God’s messengers*. They understood the message, ‘Jesus lives!

24. And others with our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But, they did not see Jesus.”

25. And the stranger said, “You are foolish in being so slow to believe all the things that were told by those who speak for God. 26. Wasn’t the Christ* bound to suffer that way and enter into the light of God’s presence?” 27.

Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, the stranger explained all of the scriptures about the Christ.

28. Then, they were near the village where they were going. I seemed as if the stranger would go on.

29. But, they strongly urged, “Stay with us!” It is almost evening. And now the sun has set.”

So, the stranger went inside to stay with them.

30. Then it happened! The stranger was at table with them. Taking the loaf of bread, the stranger gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them. 31. And their understanding eyes were opened. They knew the stranger. And the stranger disappeared from them.

32. And they said to each other, “Wasn’t our heart burning within us as the stranger talked to us on the way and explained the scripture* to us?”

33. So they got up right then. They went back into Jerusalem. They found the eleven together. The others were with them.

34. They were saying, “It is true! The Leader* was raised and was made known to Simon*.”

35. And the two told about the happening on the way. They told how it was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

36. As they were talking about these things, the Leader was there among them. 37. They were startled. Then, they were beginning to fear. They thought they were experiencing a spirit*.

38. And the leader said to them, “Why have you been troubled? Why have doubts come up in your hearts? 39. See my hands and my feet. See that I am

the same. Feel me and see. See that a spirit does not have the flesh and bones in the way you must experience me having.”

41. But, in spite of their joy and wonder*, they were still not believing.

The Leader said to them, “What food do you have here?”

42. And they gave the leader part of a cooked fish. 43. The Leader took the fish and ate it with them there.

44. Then the Leader said to them, “This is what I meant when I talked to you while I was still with you. I said that it is God’s plan to have everything done that was written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms.”

45. Then, the Leader opened their minds to understanding the scriptures*.

46. The Leader said to them, “This has been written, that the Christ was to suffer and to be raised from the dead on the third day.” 47. The Leader continued, “And with the power of Christ, a change into new life, with God’s acceptance, is to be announced to all peoples, beginning from Jerusalem.

48. You are the ones who have experienced and can tell the facts and the truth of these things. 49. Now listen! I am sending out to you the gift

promised by my creator. But, stay in the city until you are covered in power* from God.”

50. The Leader took them out as far as Bethany. Then, with hands lifted up, the Leader thanked God and gave them strength. 51. And it happened, in the giving thanks to God and strength to them, the Leader went away from them.

52. And they went back into Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they were always in the temple*, thanking and praising God.