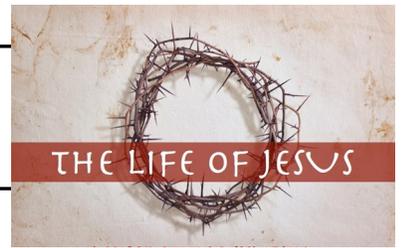


# The Life of Jesus



## Introduction

Have you ever been humiliated? From the very beginning, the life of Jesus was a life of humiliation. Taking our place was a humiliating experience. As humiliating as it was for Jesus to suffer throughout his life, his death was even more humiliating. He faced humiliation because of us all, and for us all.

Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for taking my place and showing me your example of perfect, loving humility. Help me now to humble myself to remove all misplaced and sinful pride, so that I focus on you always above my own interests. Amen.

### **Lesson Aim: Why did Jesus humble himself?**

## **Part One**

Read Philippians 2:3-8.

- 1) Define humiliation
- 2) What virtue of Jesus are we encouraged to emulate in this passage?
- 3) As this passage teaches us about Jesus, who does it say Jesus truly is?
- 4) What nature did Jesus take on?
- 5) What humiliating changes did Jesus experience as a result of taking on that second nature?
- 6) Why did Jesus do this?
- 7) How far did Jesus go in humbling himself?

Read Mark 4:35-41.

- 8) What happened while Jesus and his disciples were in the boat crossing the sea?
- 9) What in this section points to Jesus' state of humiliation?
- 10) How did the disciples react to the storm?
- 11) How did Jesus show that, even though he was still in his state of humiliation, he was still true God with all the power of God?
- 12) Why did Jesus scold the disciples?
- 13) How did Jesus' disciples react to what he had done and said?

**KEY POINT 1** - The Bible tells us that in order to save us, Jesus humbled himself and did not make full use of all his heavenly power and glory.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Two

Read Matthew 26:47-68, 27:1-2, 27:11-54.

- 1) Who led Jesus' enemies to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest him?
- 2) Why didn't Jesus resist the people who came to arrest him?
- 3) After Jesus was arrested, where did they take him?
- 4) Even after the court couldn't find any charges against him, what was the crime they finally charged him with that led them to decide to kill him?
- 5) What did they do to Jesus after sentencing him to death?
- 6) Where did the Jews take Jesus the next morning?
- 7) How did Pilate first try to set Jesus free?
- 8) Who did the people (led by their leaders) choose to have released instead of Jesus?
- 9) After Jesus was sentenced to death by the Roman governor, Pilate, what was the first thing they did to him?
- 10) What else did the Roman soldiers do to Jesus?
- 11) At about the ninth hour (that is about 3:00 p.m.) Jesus cried out with a loud voice. What did he say?
- 12) How does that cry show Jesus was suffering from more than just nails piercing his hands and feet?
- 13) In Matthew 27:50 we're told that Jesus "gave up his spirit." What does that teach us about who was in control of Jesus' death?
- 14) Why is Jesus' voluntary death important to you?
- 15) What happened in verse 51?
- 16) The curtain in the temple symbolized the separation between God and man which was caused by our sins. What did it mean when that curtain tore in two?
- 17) Verse 52 shows that along with sin what else has been defeated?

18) When the Centurion saw everything that happened, what did he say?

19) What does this show happened to him by witnessing all this?

20) What had Jesus done to deserve all his suffering?

The religious leaders, ironically, remembered that Jesus had told them that he would rise from the dead on the third day. The religious leaders were afraid that the disciples would steal Jesus' body out of the tomb and say he'd risen. So they asked Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor of Israel, to order that a guard be posted and Jesus' tomb be sealed. So it was done.

**KEY POINT 2** - Jesus, who is greatest God from eternity, humbled himself by becoming like us and living as a man in our place. Part of living in our place included taking on the suffering our sins have earned.

**What I've learned so far:**

## Part Three

Study pages 163-169 in the Catechism and answer the following questions in your own words.

1) What do we mean when we speak of Jesus' state of humiliation?

2) What was the whole purpose of Jesus' state of humiliation?

### Helpful Passages

Luke 9:58

In what other way did Jesus suffer in his state of humiliation while he was here on earth?

Hebrews 4:15

What was different about Jesus' life from yours, mine, and the rest of the world?

Romans 4:25

Someone who sins deserves to die, but Jesus was without sin. From this verse, why did Jesus die?

Isaiah 53:5

What did Jesus' death accomplish for us?

John 19:30

When Jesus said, "it is finished," he wasn't talking about his life. He was talking about payment for the sins of the world. Based on this phrase, is there any sin that Jesus did not pay for on the cross? Why not?

2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus' complete worldly poverty in his suffering and death define the humiliation of his earthly life. What was the sole thing that motivated him to endure it all?

What do you gain from Jesus' humiliating life of suffering?

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**Main point — Jesus humbled himself to redeem me.**

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**Final considerations:**

Match the correct definition to each word.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. ___ redeem      | A. a price paid to set someone free                             |
| 2. ___ humiliation | B. something done to make up for a crime                        |
| 3. ___ ransom      | C. to offer or surrender something for the sake of someone else |
| 4. ___ guilt       | D. to buy back and set free                                     |
| 5. ___ justify     | E. being brought down low                                       |
| 6. ___ atonement   | F. the responsibility for having sinned                         |
| 7. ___ suffer      | G. pain, to undergo a penalty                                   |
| 8. ___ humble      | H. to declare someone not guilty                                |
| 9. ___ sacrifice   | I. not proud or arrogant  |

**Multiple Choice**

10. In order to redeem us, Jesus \_\_\_ .
- A. appeared in a form resembling a man and fought against the devil.
  - B. kept the law perfectly to show us how to live as God wants.
  - C. humbled himself so that he appeared in great lowliness, and did not always make full use of his divine powers, and finally he died on the cross.
11. Jesus' humiliation refers to \_\_\_ .
- A. the time he was humiliated by people in his hometown when they refused to listen to him.
  - B. the time when he humiliated the devil during his temptation.
  - C. his whole life of poverty and lowliness, particularly the sufferings and ill treatment he endured and his death on the cross.



**True or False**

12. \_\_\_ Christ was embarrassed to save us.
13. \_\_\_ Being human is humiliating.
14. \_\_\_ Jesus was defeated.
15. The Apostle's Creed identifies five major parts to Jesus' state of humiliation. Look at the Second Article of that creed and identify those five major parts:

Keep working on your personal confession of faith creed.

**What I've learned about the life of Jesus:**

**Commit to Memory:**

- The Second Article with Luther's explanation.
  - Romans 5:8
  - 1 John 2:2