

## **The Resurrection Factor – Part 2**

*Josh McDowell*

### I. Introduction.

A. Review.

### II. Matthew 27:33-56 - Important historical details of Christ's death.

### III. Christ's death by crucifixion.

A. One of the most cruel deaths that anyone could ever face. (Josephus)

B. The prisoner would first be whipped with a deadly whip with sharp bone that would break open the flesh. Dr. C. Truman Davis asserted that only when the prisoner was near death would he be released to go to crucifixion.

C. Jesus was also given a crown of thorns.

D. Jesus was required to carry a cross bar and possibly even the entire cross.

E. Spikes were driven into his hands and feet. One archaeological discovery validated this practice.

F. The legs of Jesus were about to be broken because victims survived by pushing off a small seat that was on the cross to breathe. If their legs were broken they could not push off to breathe. This completed the Old Testament prophecy that said not one of His bones would be broken.

G. A spear was thrust into Jesus side and blood and water came out of Jesus side. Medical teaching says that this is the surest sign of death.

H. A sign was put up above Jesus listing the crime that He was accused of.

I. Lots were normally cast for the garments as was the case here.

J. Four executioners had signed His death warrant as was the practice.

K. Crucifixion was so deadly to the body that Josephus wrote two of his three friends who were crucified for only minutes had died after being taken off the cross by order.

L. According to Jewish custom two people would carry the body to the area of preparation.

M. The burial of Christ was very systematic - spices, clay and cloth were used together to dually seal the body by wrapping it.

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## STUDY GUIDE

### *Part 1: What do you see?*

1. List the key details about the crucifixion shed any doubt that Jesus died as a result of the event.

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2. What particular significance did the whipping and the breaking of legs have upon the death of victims?

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3. Review the Matthew 27:33-56. What vivid details of this account make it appear more historically reliable?

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### *Part 2: What do you think?*

1. Which details about Christ's death and burial were the most striking to you? Explain.

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2. Why do you think the Gospel writers were so thorough with the details concerning the crucifixion?

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3. Why do you think that the Pharisees made such an effort to seal the tomb in light of what Jesus prophesied concerning His resurrection? Were they worried that He would actually be risen, or were they concerned about something else?

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**Part 3: What will you do?**

1. Having a clearer understanding of Jesus' suffering, what sort of attitude ought we to take towards the cross? How might we better understand the metaphorical cross that we are supposed to take in following Jesus in light of this?

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2. How would you refute the claim that Jesus must have never died on the cross in the first place?

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3. The Scriptures teach us that Jesus died *for* our sins. In light of the costly sacrifice that was made on our behalf, what kind of lifestyle does this call us to live?

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