

# DVD: Jesus: The Complete Story: The Last Days

Why does it seem as though Jesus was "asking for trouble" in the days before his death?

The crucifixion is mentioned 80 times in the Bible and by Josephus.

1. Jesus could have avoided trouble – but he did not.

- He would have known about crucifixions
- He gathered disciples that put him on a collision course with religious leaders.
  - He cured, forgave and welcomed enemies!
  - Challenged the Religious authorities.
- Jesus chose to take his message to Jerusalem / rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and entered the Temple.
  - Protested the injustices of the Temple system.
  - No one seemed to stop him.
- Perhaps many were very proud of him. Why does he walk out?

2. Passover in Jerusalem

- Huge symbolism for Jews: slavery to freedom.
- "Last supper" Not like the picture of DaVinci
  - Took place in the house of a wealthy person.
    - "triclinium" a three sided table
    - left side of table is most important side of table.
    - Reclining to eat your eat your mail.
    - John's Gospel gives clues as to where people sat.
  - Startling News: What about Judas?
    - His departure was not seen as unusual. Was he doing Jesus' will? Was Judas the "betrayed?"
    - Mathew says that Judas was called Jesus' friends.

3. Garden of Gethsemane: In town of Bethany on Mt of Olives near Jerusalem.

- Disciples fell asleep.
- Lk: Jesus = a man in crisis. AGONY!
  - Sweating blood? This could have been a real experience.

- Doctors many have seen others sweating blood when confronted with extreme stress or death.
  - Jesus knew his end was near! Yikes! Extreme stress!
3. Judas gets the heat for betraying Jesus.
- Could it be that betrayal is a mistranslation of “hand over?”
  - Did Jesus choose Judas to hand him over? Hmmm
    - People got paid for “handing people over”
    - What is the difference?
4. Jesus did not escape when he could have! Jesus’ goal = confront Temple system
- Caiaphas: (High Priest) Whoa...big guy!
    - Had final say of who could enter the Temple.
    - Jerusalem would have been jammed packed because of Passover.
    - Need to make Jesus look like a criminal → blasphemy and political leader.
  - Pilate and Jesus
    - Jesus was not worth it for Pilate to let him continue, so easier to get rid of him.
  - Blasphemy: Now can get Jesus in trouble with the Romans and Jews!
5. Stoning vs Crucifixion!
- Jews not allowed to crucify, but they could stone someone
  - Would religious Jews want this to happen to another religious Jew
6. Crucifixion. → commemorated in many cultures in many ways.
- In Philipines, men reenact the crucifixion rather literally.
    - Believe prayers will be answered if endure the pain.
    - Volunteers are nailed to a cross.
  - Image of Jesus on the Cross: Traditional vs Other theories
    - What about the nails? (Jesus on cross for 6 hours)
      - Jesus could have been nailed in the hands, depending on whether or not his feet/buttocks were supported.

- Evidence suggests Jesus legs may have been supported. (found bones of a crucified person (1968))
    - Man could be on a cross for days. (Really awful!)
      - Feet could have been nailed to side of tree/cross
      - Or a "seat" could have been constructed.
        -
  - What about the cross?
    - Up to 500 rebels would have been crucified a day
    - Trees could have been used as crosses.
    - Sponge? Common practice to quench thirst or dull the pain
    - Mocking? Total POWERLESSNESS!
    - Mary and Followers? Seems like humiliating failure
7. Death/suffering leads to salvation? Seems so strange!
- Could suffering be part of the plan: suffering atoning for problems
  - God defeats evil by letting it do its worse, so that through Jesus' suffering the force of evil would be exhausted!
    - Human emotions of Jesus
      - Cry out to God. Is Jesus frustrated? In a dialogue with God.
      - Shows the closeness of Jesus and God the Father.
8. It seems as though crucifixion means the movement ends!
- Yet it is not over. Why not?
  - The crucifixion was not the end of the story.
    - A dead messiah usually meant the end of the moment
    - What the heck happened?
    -
  - What was area like around the crucifixion.
    - Perhaps an old quarry outside the city walls
    - Found tombs from the 1<sup>st</sup> cen.
    - Church now stands on the site. Holy Sepulcher

- Perhaps Jesus was crucified in a quarry outside the city walls.
- Garbage dump and crucifixion site perhaps
- Tombs also built outside city walls.

9. What about the Resurrection? Death seems as though all is OVER, but NO!

- The heart of Christianity! An expression of belief!
- Billions of people believe in it
- What about evidence? Resurrection accounts.
  - Road to Emmaus.
  - Could this have been hallucinations?
  - Disciples seeing Jesus is not typical: they at first do not recognize Jesus!
  - Plus! Women are witnesses! How strange! Not likely for this to be made up.
  - Gospels say women came to visit tomb
  - Is there a rational explanation for the empty tomb
    - Was body not taken down? (eaten by animals)
    - Was the body stolen and simulate a resurrection
    - Was Jesus still alive? (mandrake: hiazine renders people dead like) Idea is flawed....Jesus was beat up before, plus Romans were expert executioners.
  - A matter of faith...comes from the human heart. Do not reduce it to the minimum → reason.
  - Without belief of resurrection, hard to belief the existence of the early church.



