

September 21

Luke 22:54-62

This passage tells of Peter denying Jesus three times, just as Jesus had said he would.

Question to Consider:

The question is obvious and is similar to the question prompted by yesterday's reading; how do *you* deny Jesus?

Prayer:

Merciful God, I know that too often I make choices that amount to a denial of Jesus. Please forgive me, and give me the courage to fully stand with Jesus in the future. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

September 22

Luke 22:66-71

In these verses, we read about Jesus going before the council of religious leaders.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever heard someone make a faith claim that seemed outrageous? What was it, and how did you react when you heard it?

Prayer:

Loving God, there will be times when I hear someone make a faith claim that seems impossible. Please give me wisdom. Help me to discern the difference between faith claims that are true and those that are not. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

September 23

Matthew 27:1-2

This is a very short passage, but it tells a significant part of our salvation story.

Question to Consider:

Why do you believe the religious leaders made the most extreme decision – the decision to put Jesus to death?

Prayer:

Father God, I know that Jesus was condemned to death unjustly. He did not deserve to die. Help me to appreciate more the sacrifice that he made. He not only suffered physically. He suffered emotionally and spiritually as he endured the injustice of it all. In His name I pray, Amen.

September 24

Matthew 27:3-10

In this passage, we read about the remorse Judas felt and the choice he made about how to deal with it.

Question to Consider:

Judas believed that the sin he had committed was worse than what God would be willing to forgive. How about you? Is there some sin in your life that you believe is beyond God's willingness to forgive?

Prayer:

Gracious God, I know that even Judas could have found forgiveness, and if Judas could find forgiveness then I believe that I can, too. Please forgive me, especially for *(name the sin that you believe is beyond God's willingness to forgive)*. I pray in the name of my Savior Jesus, Amen.

September 25

John 18:28-38

These verses describe the encounter Jesus had with Pilate, the Roman governor.

Question to Consider:

In the last verse of this passage, Pilate asked Jesus "What is truth?" How would you answer that question?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I pray for greater understanding of your truth. Help me to grow in my love for you, so that I may better live as you would have me live, and experience the hope and promise of being in your presence for all eternity. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.