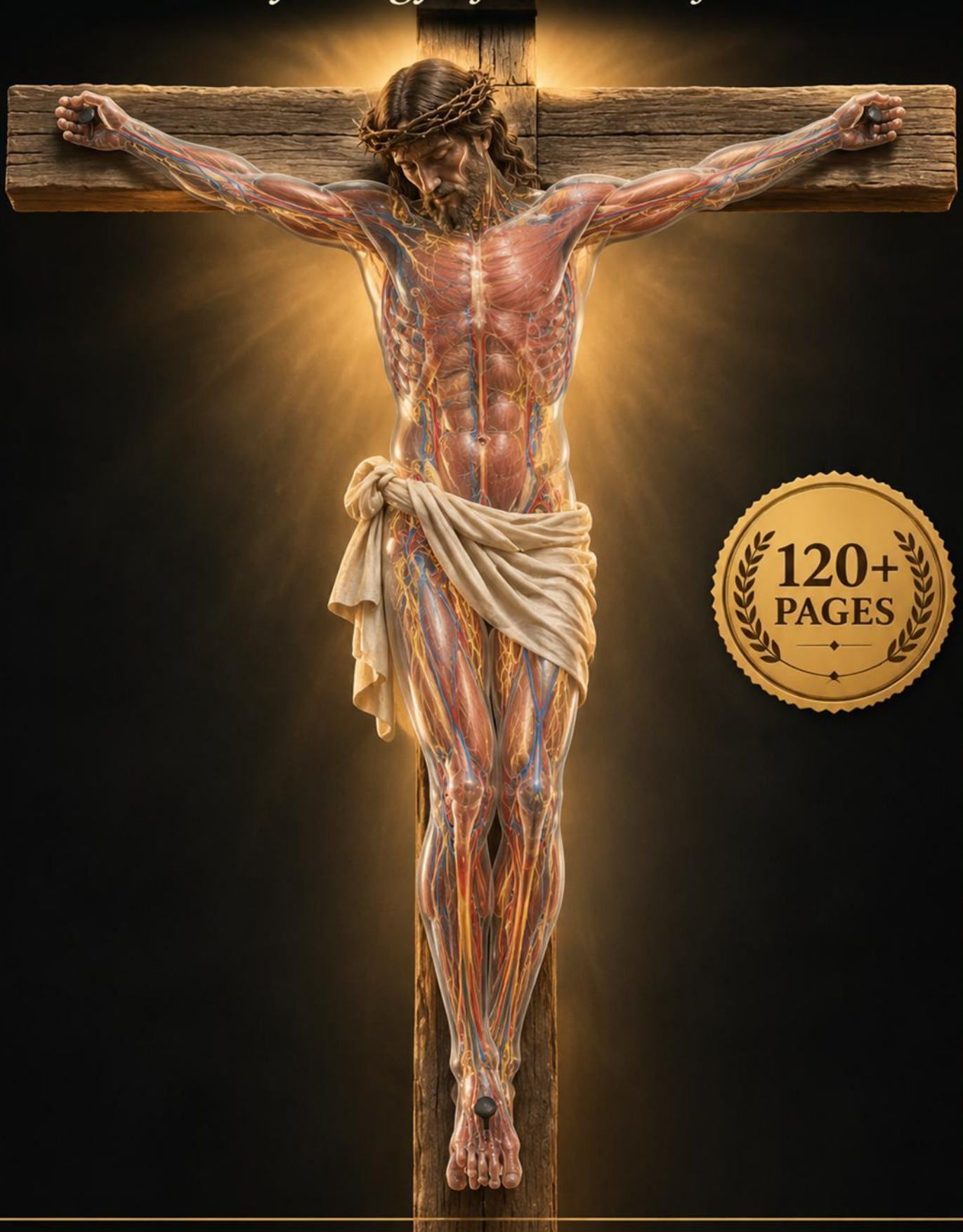
A 3D VISUAL ATLAS · HISTORY · ANATOMY · SCRIPTURE

THE PASSION IN 3D™

The Physiology of the Crucifixion

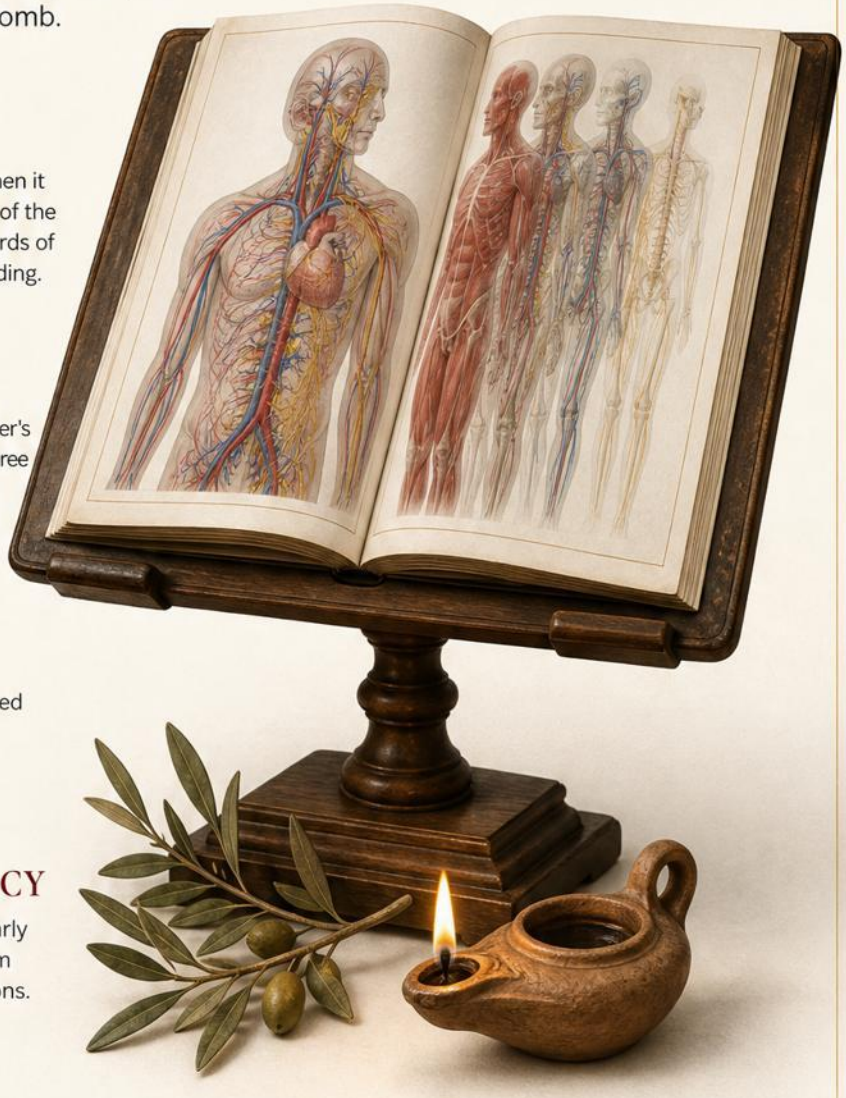


120+ PAGES

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Use This Atlas

This atlas follows the last day of Jesus' earthly life in 12 classes, in the order the events happened, from the Upper Room to the empty tomb.



Read

Each class opens with where and when it happened, then a 3D reconstruction of the place, four anatomical plates, the words of Scripture and a short devotional reading.

Teach

The last page of every class is a Teacher's page: an objective, the Bible reading, three discussion questions, an activity and a memory verse. One class fits a 45–60 minute lesson.

Print

The wall plate of each class is designed to be printed as a poster for the classroom or the home.

A note on accuracy

Where evidence is debated, we clearly distinguish biblical descriptions from historical and medical reconstructions. Scripture is quoted from the King James Version.



THE PASSION IN 3D

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Before you begin

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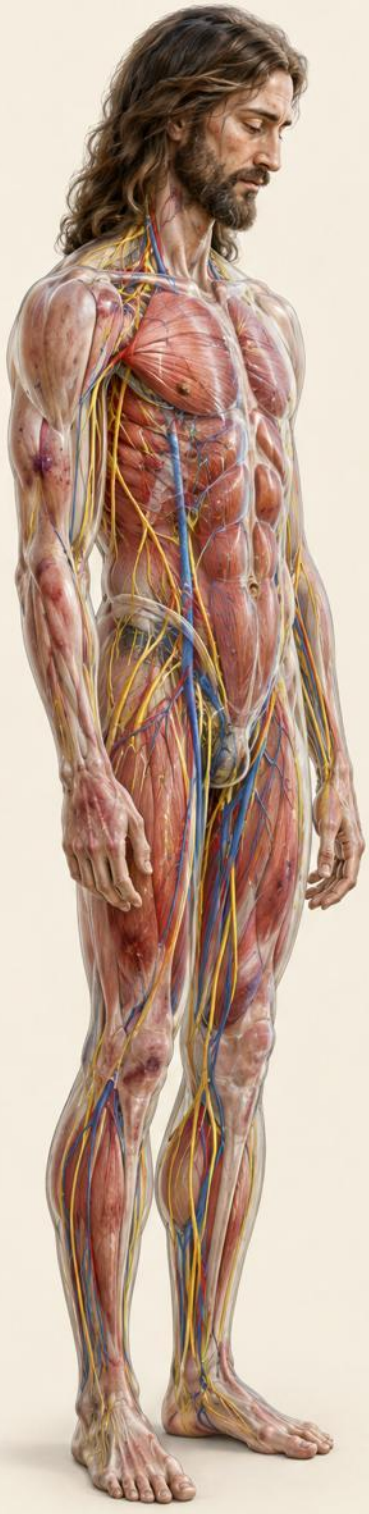
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THURSDAY EVENING TO FRIDAY DAWN

THE LAST 24 HOURS · PART 1



THURSDAY, ABOUT 9 PM

The Last Supper in the Upper Room.



ABOUT 10–11 PM

Across the Kidron to Gethsemane; three times he prays alone.



ABOUT MIDNIGHT

Judas arrives with soldiers and officers; Jesus is bound.



AFTER MIDNIGHT

Questioned by Annas, then sent bound to Caiaphas.



NIGHT

False witnesses before the council; blows and mockery.

BEFORE DAWN

Peter denies him three times; the cock crows.



FRIDAY AT DAWN

The council meets and sends him to Pilate.

NOTE

Hours are approximate reconstructions. The Gospels give only a few fixed times.

FRIDAY, FROM DAWN TO SUNSET

The Last 24 Hours · Part 2



About 6–8 am

Before Pilate, then
Herod Antipas, then Pilate again.



About 8 am

Barabbas is released;
Jesus is scourged.

About 8–9 am

The crown of thorns;
Pilate says, *Behold the man.*



About 9 am

The walk to Golgotha;
Simon of Cyrene carries the beam.



The third hour

He is crucified (Mark 15:25).

The sixth to the ninth hour

Darkness over all the land.

About 3 pm

It is finished. The spear,
blood and water.



Before sunset

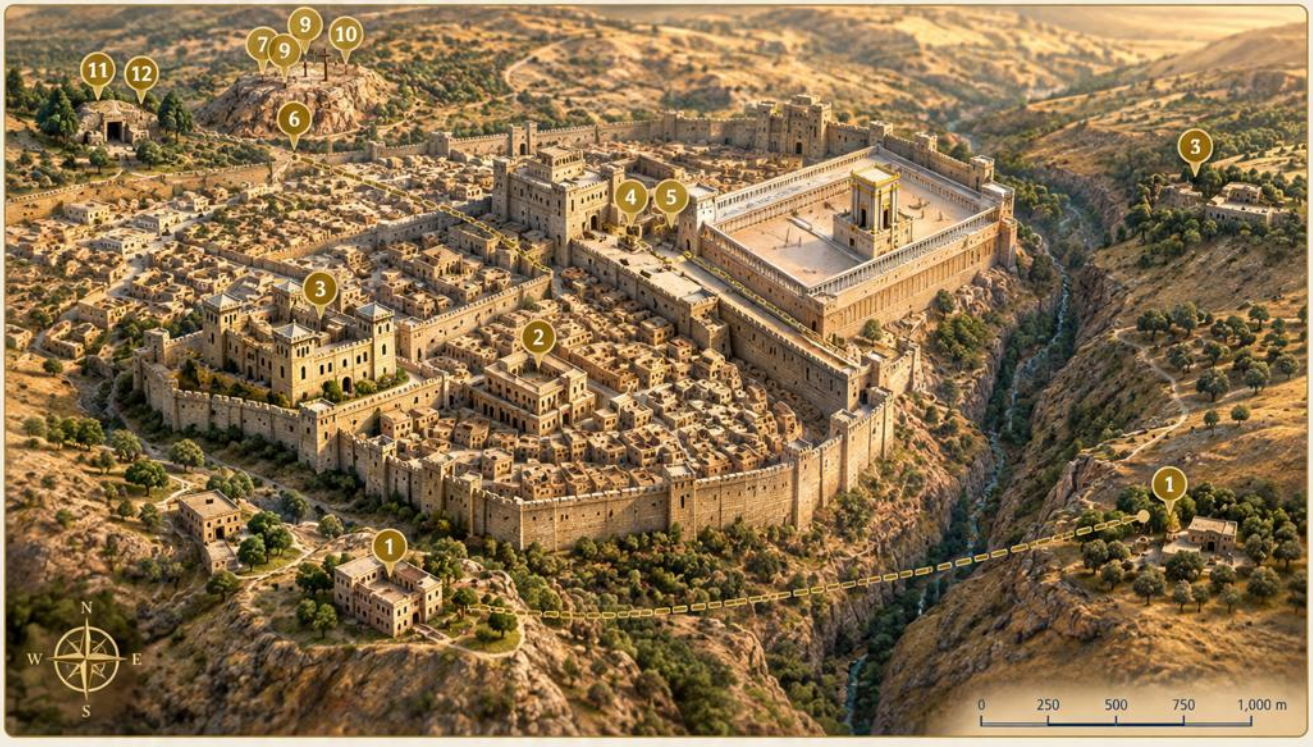
Joseph and Nicodemus lay
him in a new tomb.

THE TWELVE PLACES OF THE PASSION

JERUSALEM IN AD 30

1. Upper Room and Gethsemane ·
2. House of the high priest ·
3. Praetorium and Herod Antipas ·
4. Courtyard of the scourging ·
5. Hall of the soldiers ·
6. Via Dolorosa ·
7. Golgotha: the nails ·
8. Golgotha: six hours ·
9. Golgotha: seven words ·
10. Golgotha: the spear ·
11. The garden tomb ·
12. The empty tomb

Several sites are debated. Pins show the leading views.





Facial bruising
Swelling and discoloration around the face.

Back wounds
Red welts from scourging.

Arm injuries
Bruises and abrasions from the fall and handling.

Leg bruising
Swelling and discoloration from the journey.





Scourging wounds
Linear welts and bruising across the back.





Wrist injury
Redness and swelling from the nails.







I

THE UPPER ROOM AND GETHSEMANE

When: Thursday · about 9 pm – midnight

Where: The Upper Room → Gethsemane, Mount of Olives

After the Passover meal Jesus crossed the Kidron to a garden called Gethsemane. There, in deep anguish, he prayed alone while his disciples slept.



Gethsemane: the Garden of the Oil Press



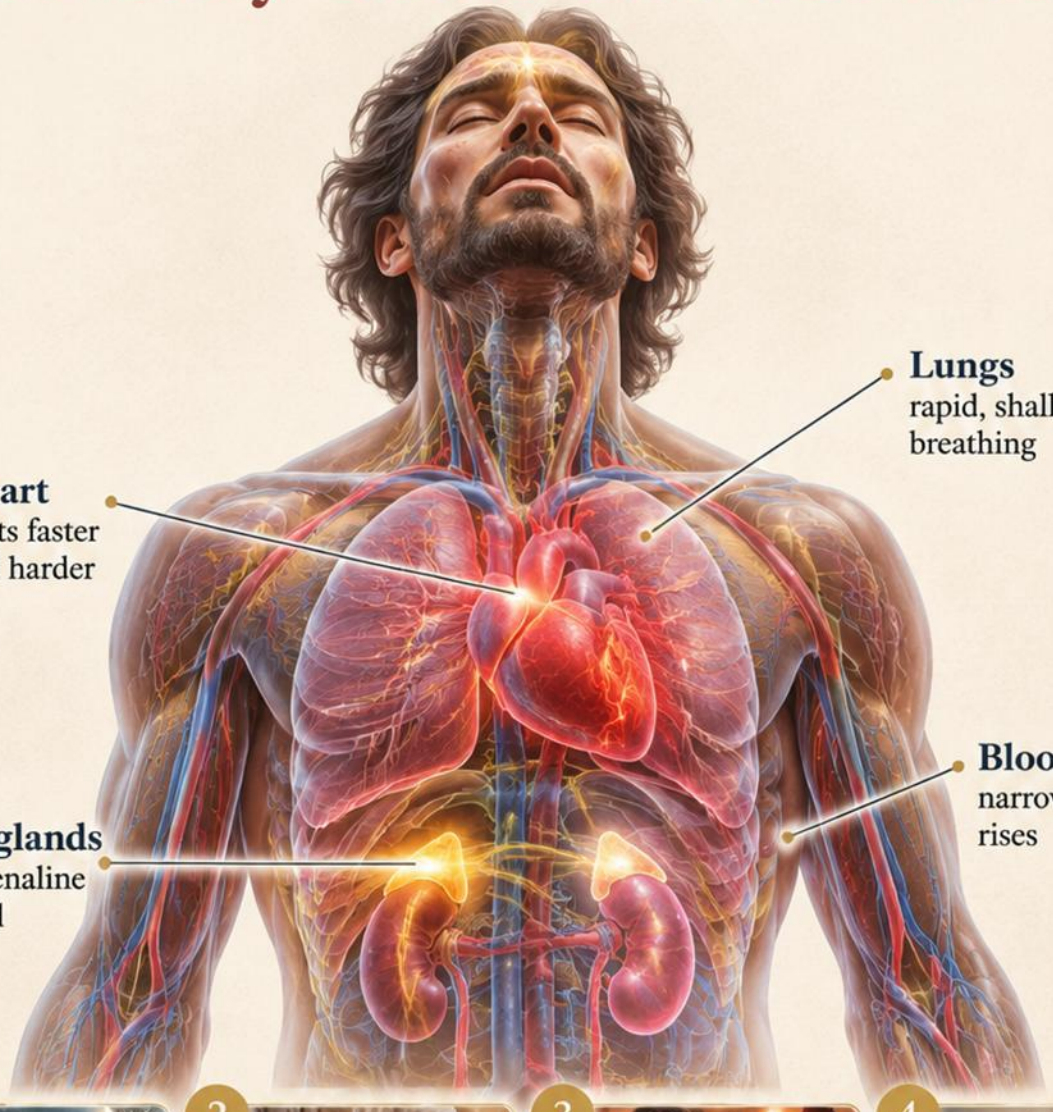
LEGEND

1. Olive grove
2. Olive press
3. Rock ledge
4. Kidron Valley
5. Eastern city wall
6. The Temple

HISTORICAL NOTE

Gethsemane comes from the Aramaic for oil press. The exact spot is unknown; the traditional site at the foot of the Mount of Olives still keeps very old olive trees.

The Body Under Extreme Stress





Medical Insight

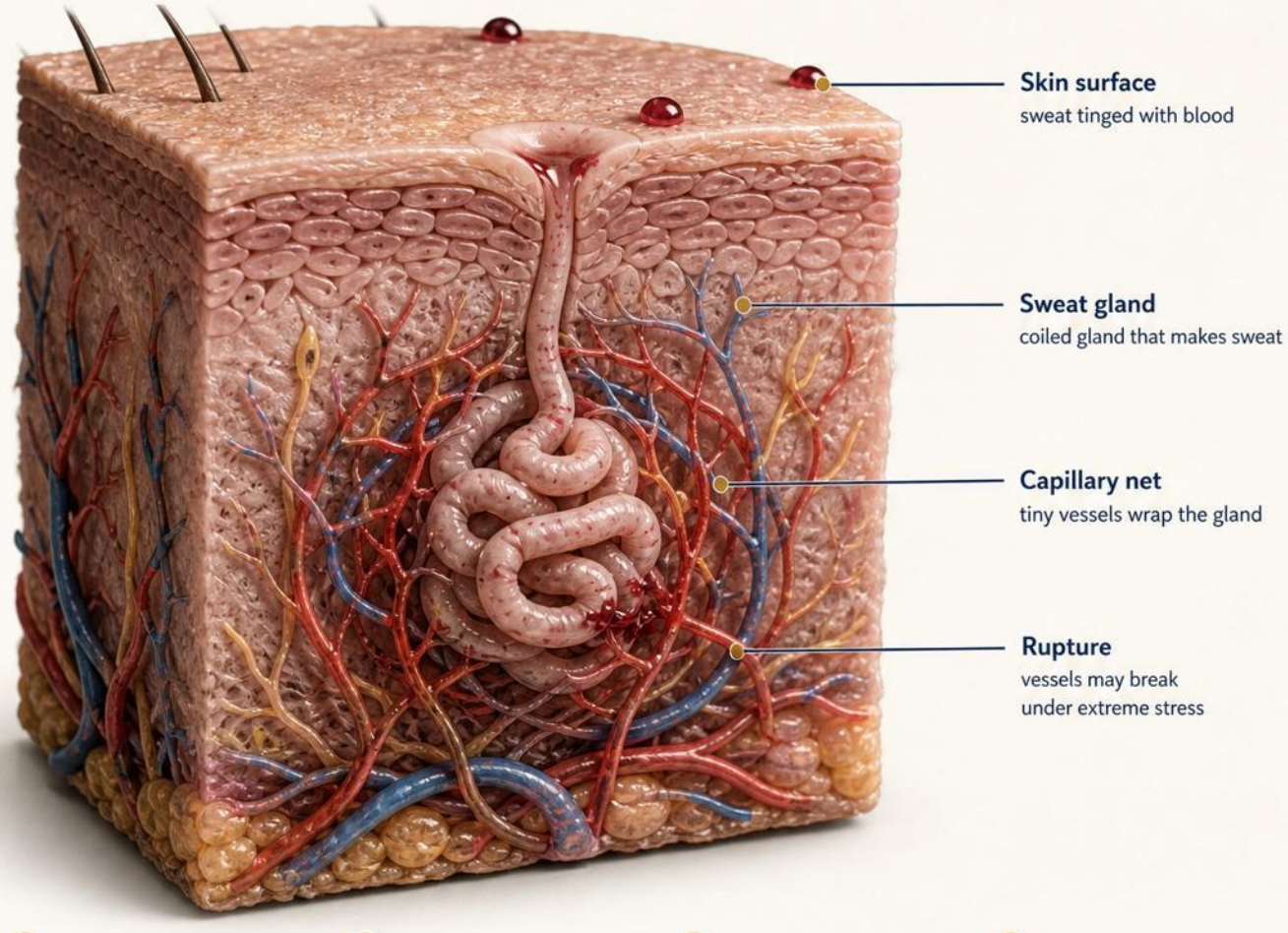
Acute anguish triggers the fight-or-flight response. The adrenal glands flood the blood with adrenaline and cortisol, raising heart rate and blood pressure and burning the body's reserves.

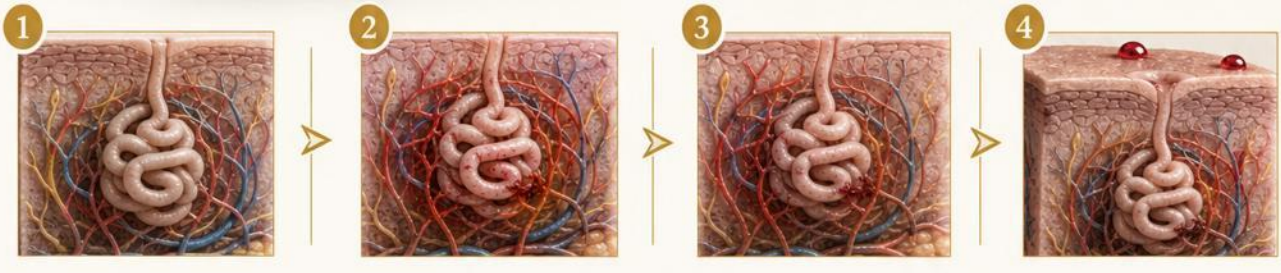
What the body endured

Hours of anguish in prayer: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" (Matthew 26:38)

CLASS 1 · THE UPPER ROOM AND GETHSEMANE

Hematidrosis: Sweat Like Drops of Blood





MEDICAL INSIGHT

Hematidrosis is a rare but documented condition in which blood enters the sweat glands under intense stress. Luke writes "as it were": scholars debate whether he means real blood or a vivid comparison.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

"his sweat was as it were great drops of blood"

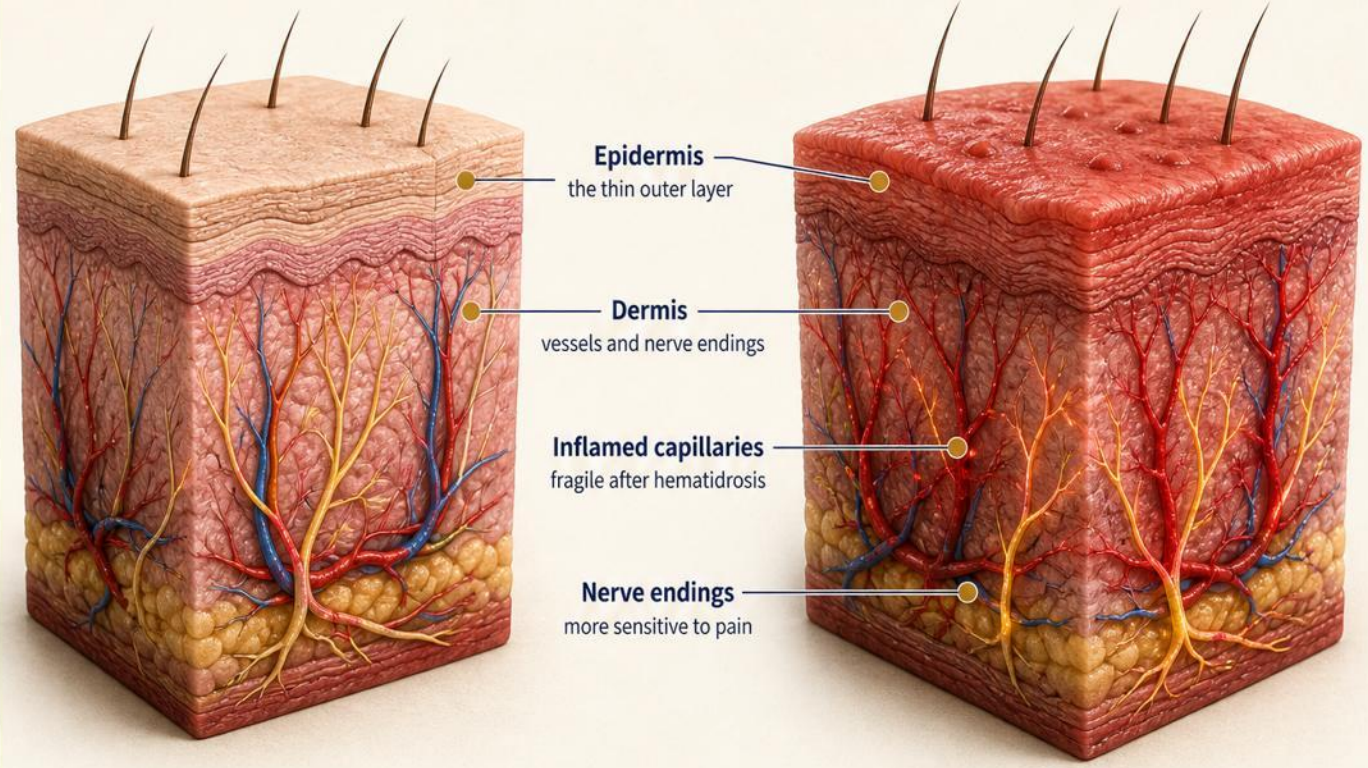
(Luke 22:44)

CURIOSITY

Luke, called "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), is the only Gospel writer to record it.

CLASS 1 · THE UPPER ROOM AND GETHSEMANE

Skin Made Fragile











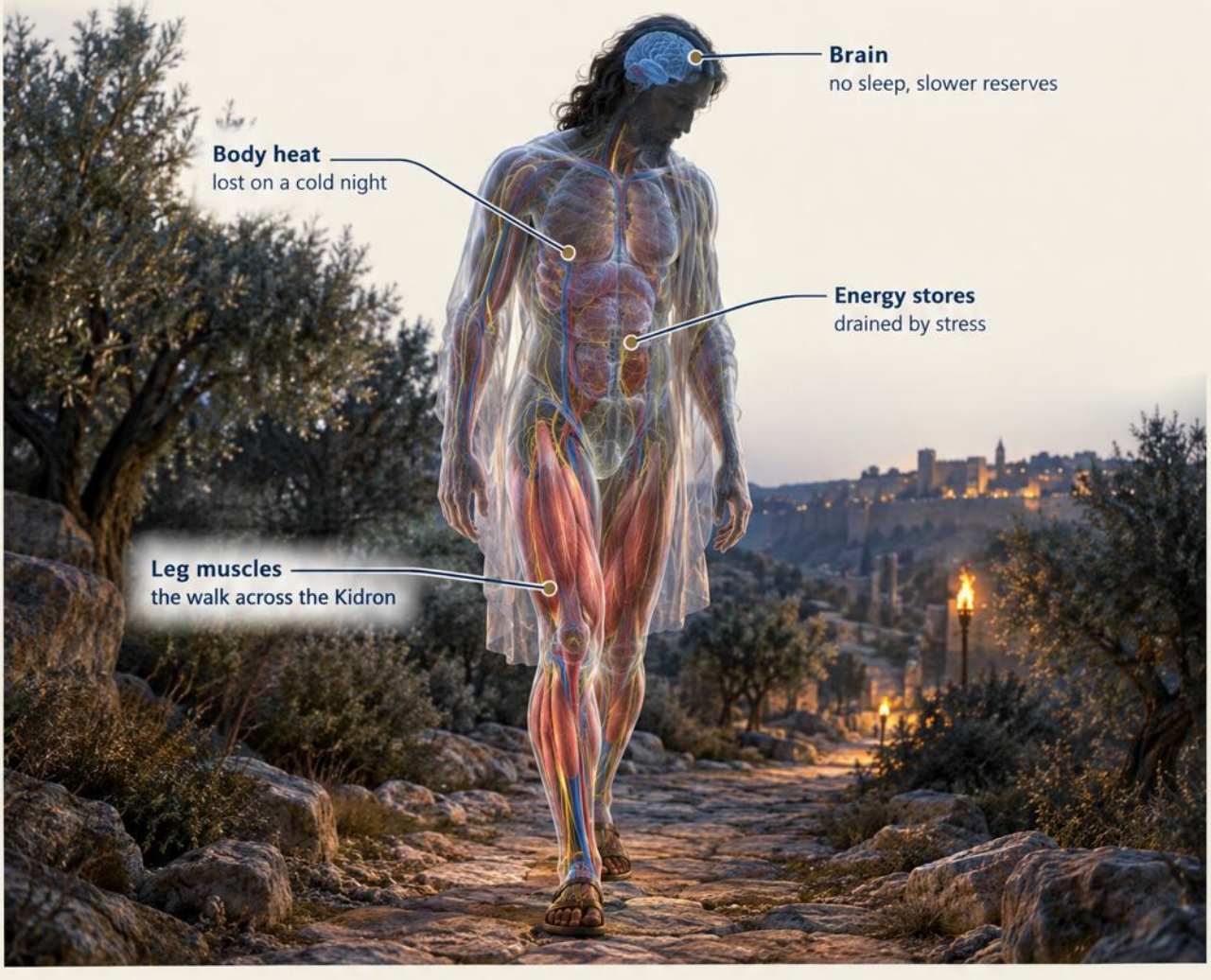
Medical Insight

One leading view (Edwards et al., JAMA, 1986) holds that hematidrosis leaves the skin unusually tender. That would make the coming blows and the scourging even more painful.

What the Body Endured

A body already sensitized, before any soldier had touched him.

EXHAUSTION: NO SLEEP, THE NIGHT WALK




1 The supper


2 The walk


3 The prayer


4 The arrest

MEDICAL INSIGHT

Lack of sleep combined with acute stress lowers the body's reserves and its tolerance of pain. The night was cold: the officers later warmed themselves at a fire (John 18:18).

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

No rest, no food recorded after the supper, and the arrest still ahead.

What Scripture Says



"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

MATTHEW 26:39

CONTEXT

In Gethsemane Jesus prays three times. The cup is the suffering he is about to face.

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

LUKE 22:44

CONTEXT

Only Luke records this detail of the prayer in the garden.





"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

MARK 14:38

CONTEXT

He finds the disciples asleep and warns them, knowing his own hour has come.





CLASS 1 · THE UPPER ROOM AND GETHSEMANE

NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE

Gethsemane shows us the full humanity of Jesus. He did not walk toward the cross without feeling its weight. He felt sorrow "even unto death", he asked if the cup could pass, and his body carried the strain of that struggle. Yet his prayer ends in surrender, not in escape. The garden of the oil press is where the olive is crushed and the oil flows; it is also where Jesus chose, freely, to give himself. His disciples slept while he watched and prayed. Our own weakness does not cancel his faithfulness. When we face what we cannot change, we can pray as he did: honestly, and with trust.

Reflect

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus felt fear and sorrow, and still obeyed?
2. Where do you need to pray "not my will, but thine" this week?



GETHSEMANE

"Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 1

THE UPPER ROOM AND GETHSEMANE

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will see that Jesus faced the cross with real human anguish and chose to obey the Father.

CLASS TIME

45

MINUTES

READING

Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus took Peter, James and John with him further into the garden?
2. What does Luke's detail about his sweat tell us about the intensity of his prayer?
3. How is Jesus' prayer a model for our own prayers in hard moments?

ACTIVITY

Show the hematidrosis plate. Ask students to list what the body goes through under extreme stress, then read Luke 22:44 aloud and discuss.

SUGGESTED TIMING

5′	10′	10′	10′	7′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

"...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"

LUKE 22:42 · KJV

II

CLASS 2

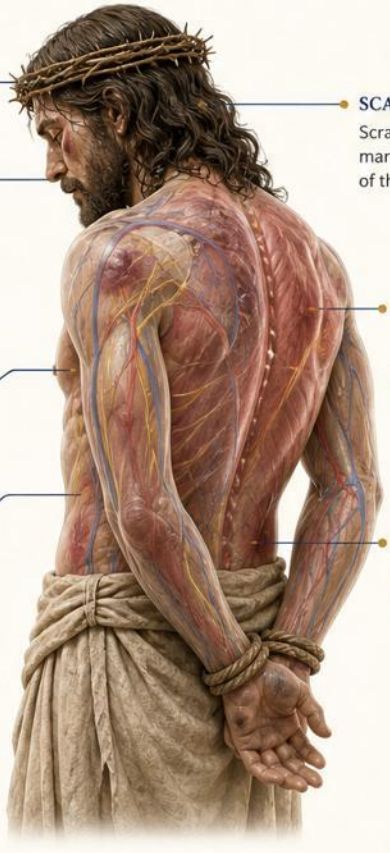
ARREST AND THE NIGHT TRIALS

WHEN:
Thursday midnight – Friday dawn

WHERE:
Gethsemane → house of Annas and Caiaphas

Jesus is arrested and bound, questioned by Annas and tried by night before Caiaphas and the council. He is struck, blindfolded and mocked, while Peter denies him in the courtyard.





CROWN OF THORNS
Thorns pressed into the scalp causing pain and small puncture marks.

STRIKES TO FACE
Swelling and bruising around the eye and cheekbone.

BEATEN CHEST
Blows to the chest causing deep bruises and soreness.

BOUND ARMS
Arms tied behind the back, straining the shoulders and wrists.

SCALP WOUNDS
Scratches and puncture marks from the crown of thorns.

LASHING WELTS
Raised, reddened welts from scourging across the back.

ABDOMINAL BRUISING
Bruising and tenderness from blows and kicks.



BLINDFOLDED
Cloth blindfold causing disorientation and distress.



MOCKING BLOWS
Struck and mocked, causing bruises on the shoulders and upper back.



TIGHT BINDING
Rope binding wrists causing pain, abrasions and numbness.

The House of the High Priest

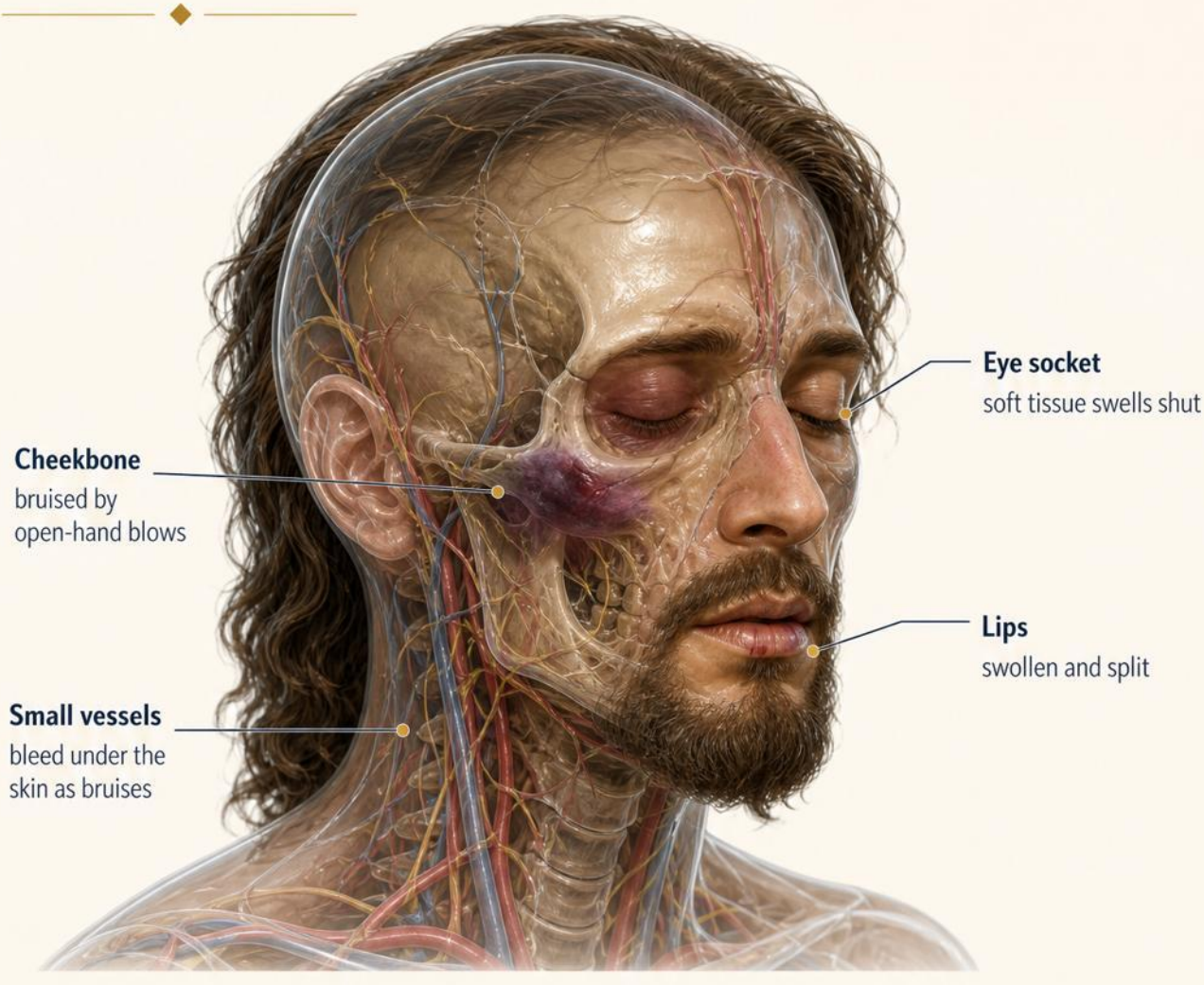


1. Courtyard
2. Fire of coals
3. Gate and porch
4. Council hall
5. Stepped street
6. Upper city houses

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1990 an ornate ossuary inscribed Joseph son of Caiaphas was found south of Jerusalem; many scholars link it to the high priest who tried Jesus. The exact location of his house is debated.

Blows to the Face





Medical Insight

A blow ruptures small vessels under the skin; blood collects as a bruise and fluid swells the tissue. Around the eyes, swelling can narrow vision within hours.

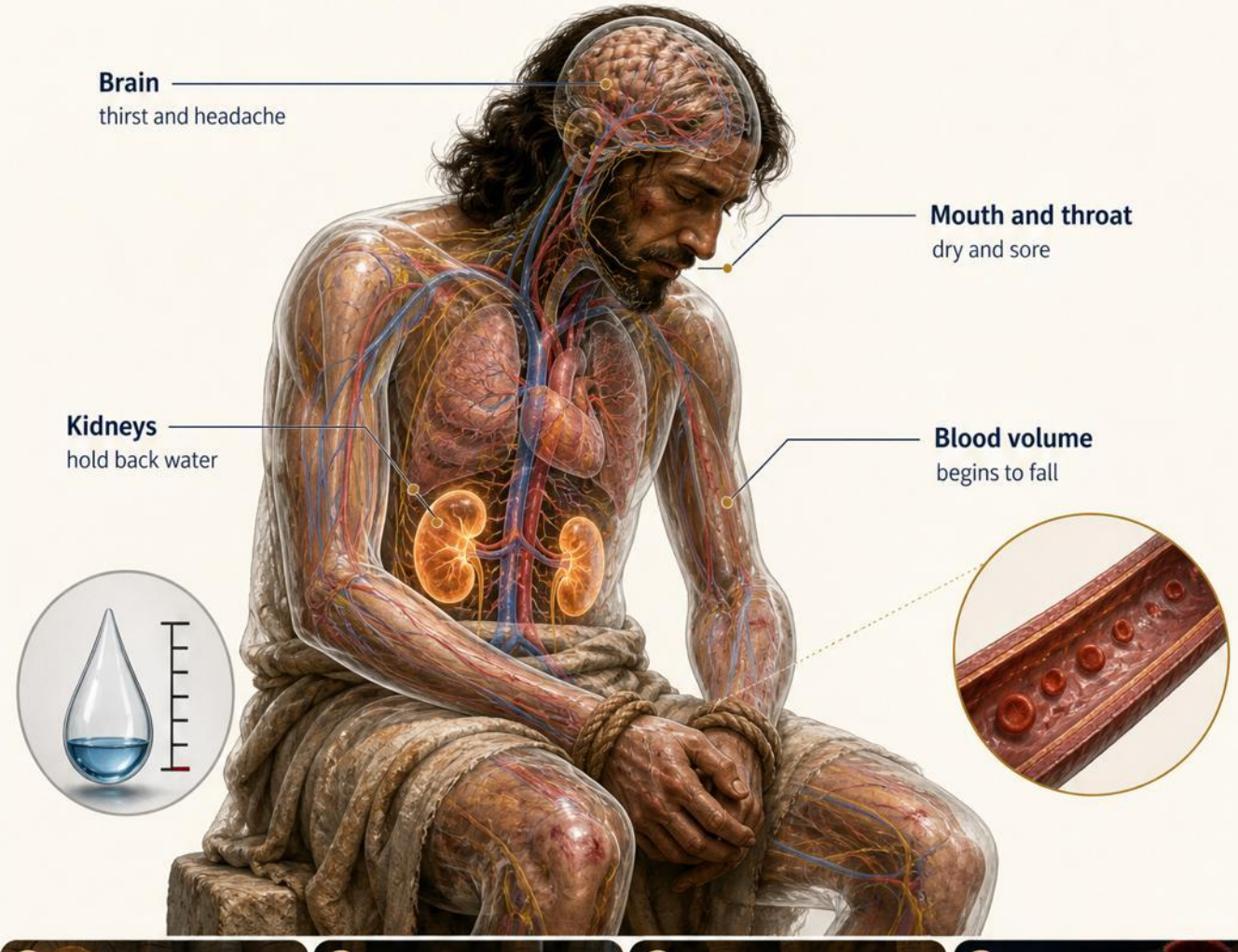
What the Body Endured

Struck by an officer (John 18:22), then spat upon and "buffeted" before the council (Matthew 26:67).

Curiosity

Blindfolded (Luke 22:64), he could not brace for the blows.

A Night Without sleep or water





Medical Insight

Stress, sweating and no fluids slowly lower the body's water. The kidneys conserve what they can and the heart works harder to keep up blood pressure: the first stage of dehydration.

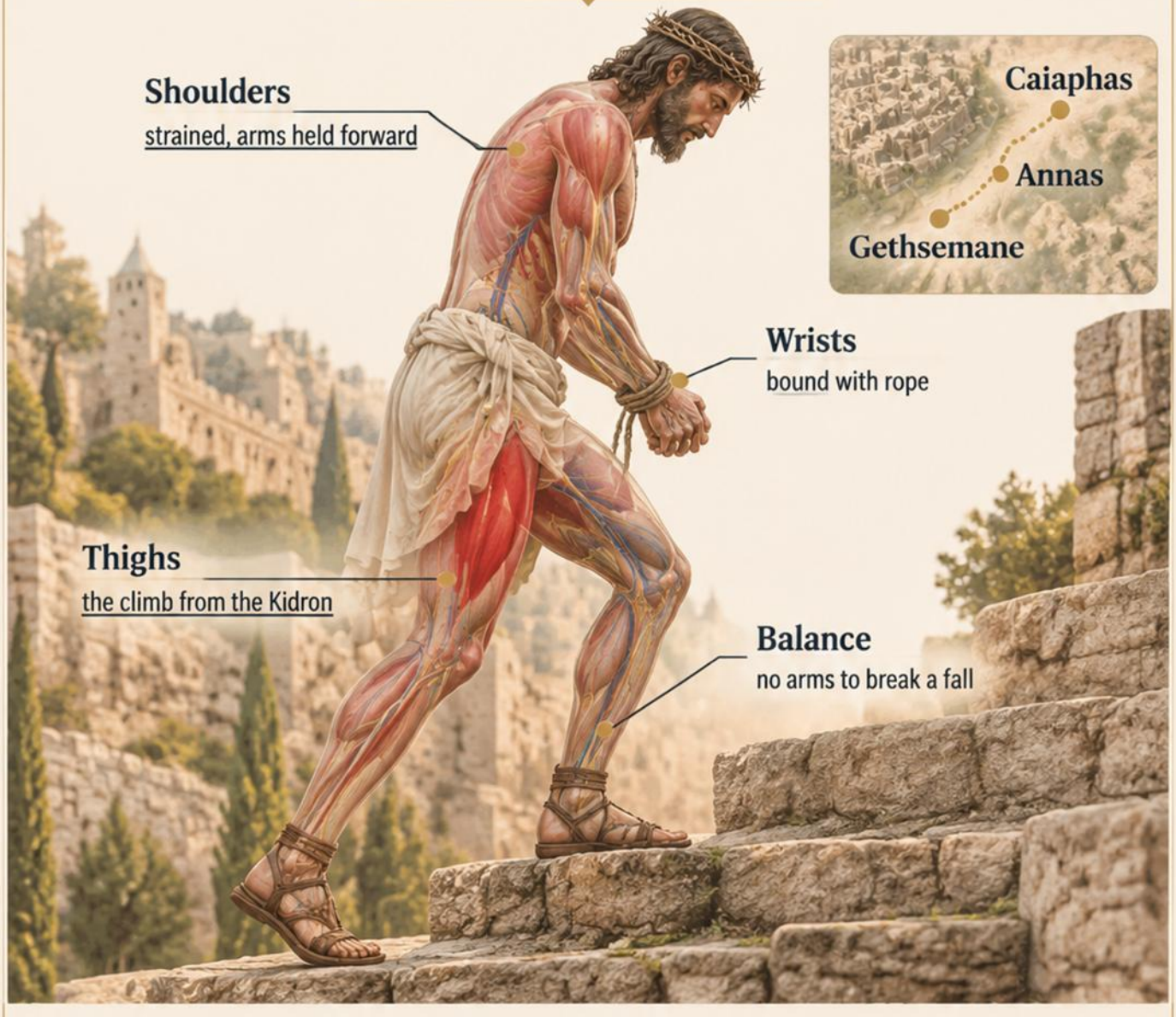
What the Body Endured

The Gospels record no water, food or rest between the supper and the cross.

Curiosity



The Walk Bound Between Courts





Gethsemane → Annas → Caiaphas → The council

Medical Insight



With the hands tied, the body loses its natural balance aids, so a stumble cannot be broken with the arms. The climb from the Kidron Valley to the upper city is steep.

What the body endured



Taken and bound in the garden (John 18:12), led to Annas, then sent bound to Caiaphas (John 18:24).

Abandoned and Mocked

Amygdala
the brain's alarm centre

Hypothalamus
keeps the stress response on

Heart
a racing pulse

Adrenal glands
cortisol stays high

1



2



3



4



MEDICAL INSIGHT

Betrayal, abandonment and humiliation keep the stress system switched on for hours. Sustained stress drains energy and makes every pain feel sharper.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

"Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled" (Matthew 26:56). Peter denied him three times.

What Scripture Says



"And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?"

JOHN 18:22

Context: The first blow comes during the questioning before Annas.

"Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,"

MATTHEW 26:67

Context: After the council declares him guilty, the mockery turns physical.





"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

LUKE 22:61

Context: In the courtyard, Peter's third denial is answered by a look.



CLASS 2 · ARREST AND THE NIGHT TRIALS

The Look That Restores

That night Jesus was bound, slapped, blindfolded and mocked, and almost everyone who loved him ran away. Peter, who had promised to die with him, swore three times that he did not know him. And then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. It was not a look of contempt. Peter went out and wept, and later he would be restored beside another charcoal fire (John 21). The night trials show how alone Jesus was. They also show that our failures are not the end of the story. The one who was abandoned does not abandon those who fail him.

REFLECT

1. When have you been tempted to hide that you belong to Jesus?
2. What does Jesus' look at Peter tell you about how he sees your failures?



CLASS 2 · ARREST AND THE NIGHT TRIALS

The Night Trial

"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter" (Luke 22:61)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 2

ARREST AND THE NIGHT TRIALS

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the injustice of the night trials and the faithfulness of Jesus toward those who fail.

CLASS TIME

45

MINUTES

READING

John 18:12-27; Matthew 26:57-75

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What made the night trials unjust, even by the rules of that time?
2. Why do you think Jesus stayed silent before some accusations?
3. How does Peter's story give hope to someone who has failed?

ACTIVITY

Draw the night on a timeline: arrest, Annas, Caiaphas, the denials, the cock crow. Mark where Jesus suffered physically and where emotionally.

SUGGESTED TIMING

5′	10′	10′	10′	7′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth"

ISAIAH 53:7 · KJV

III

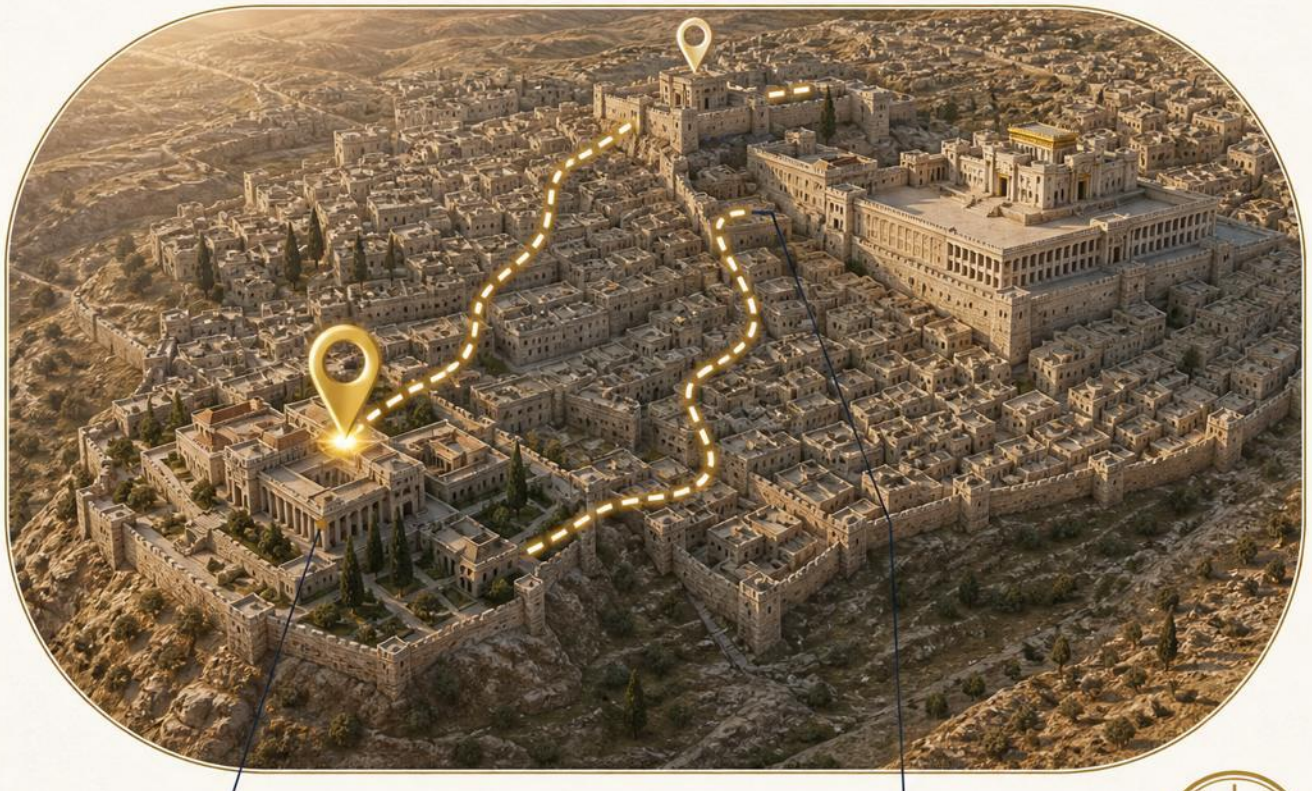
CLASS 3

Before Pilate and Herod

WHEN: Friday · about 6 – 8 am

WHERE: The Praetorium → Herod Antipas → the Praetorium

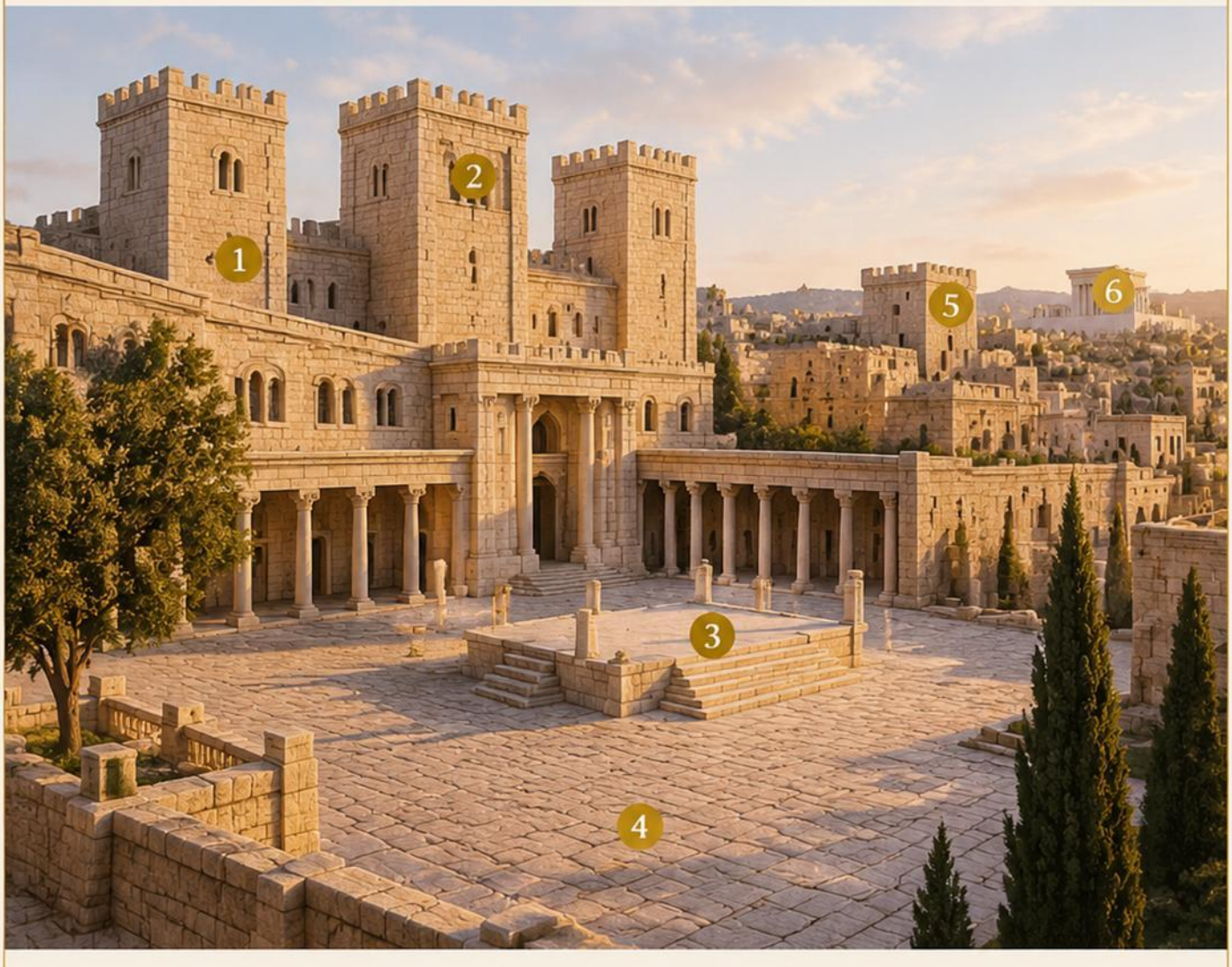
At dawn the council hands Jesus over to Pilate. Pilate sends him to Herod Antipas, who mocks him and sends him back. Pilate finds no fault, yet the crowd chooses Barabbas.



Herod's Palace
Herod Antipas mocks Jesus here.

Antonia Fortress
Jesus is sent back to the Praetorium.

The Praetorium: Where Pilate Judged



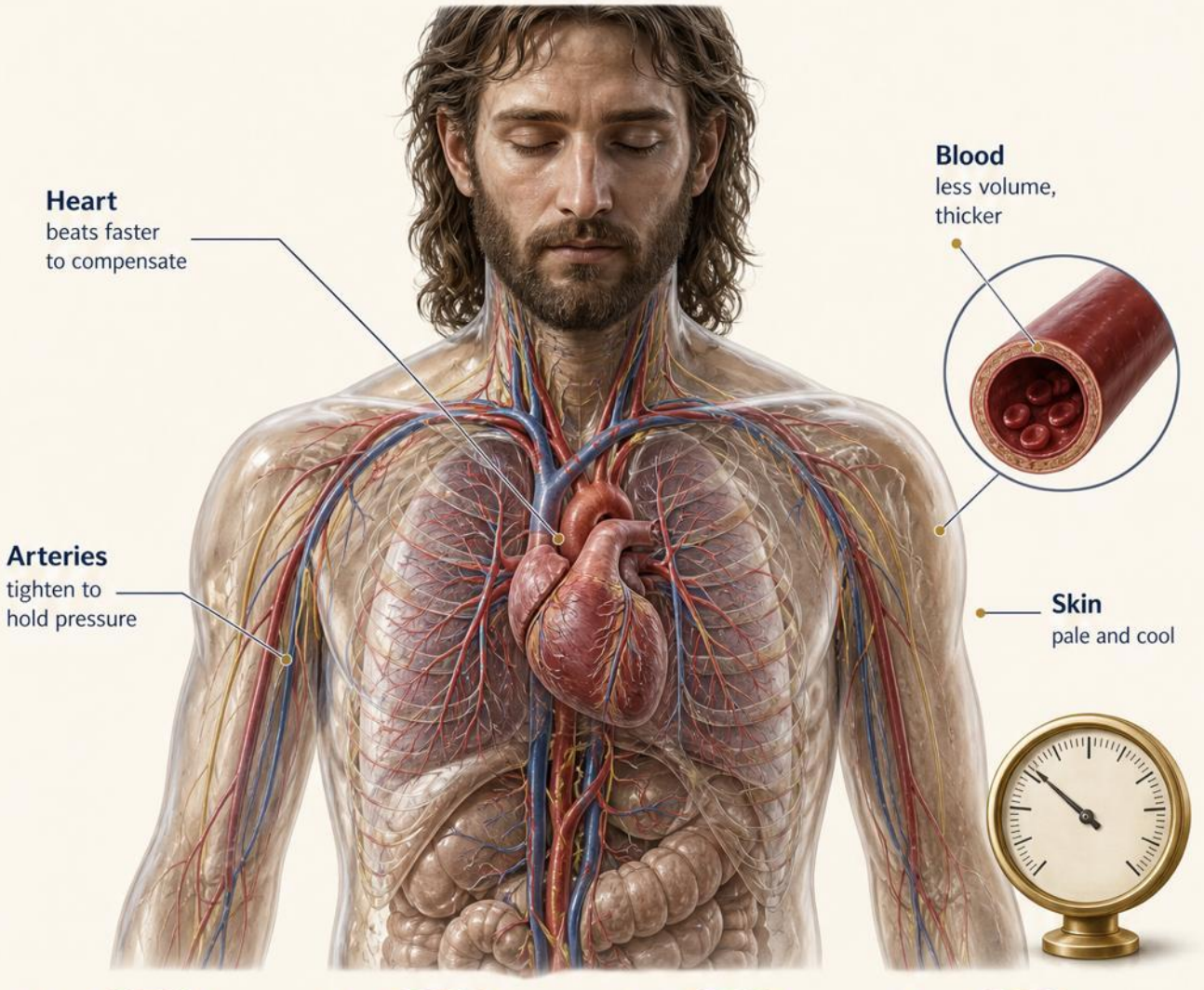
1. Herod's palace
2. The three towers
3. Judgment seat
4. The Pavement
5. Antonia Fortress
6. Temple Mount

HISTORICAL NOTE

Where was the **praetorium**? Many scholars favor Herod's palace, where Roman governors stayed; later tradition placed it at the Antonia Fortress. A stone found at Caesarea in 1961 bears Pilate's name.

CLASS 3 · BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

Dehydration and Blood Pressure





Medical Insight

As fluid is lost, blood volume falls. The body compensates by speeding the heart and tightening the vessels, so blood pressure holds for a while, at a growing cost.

What the Body Endured

Morning came after a sleepless night without water.

Back and Forth Across the City



1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5



MEDICAL INSIGHT

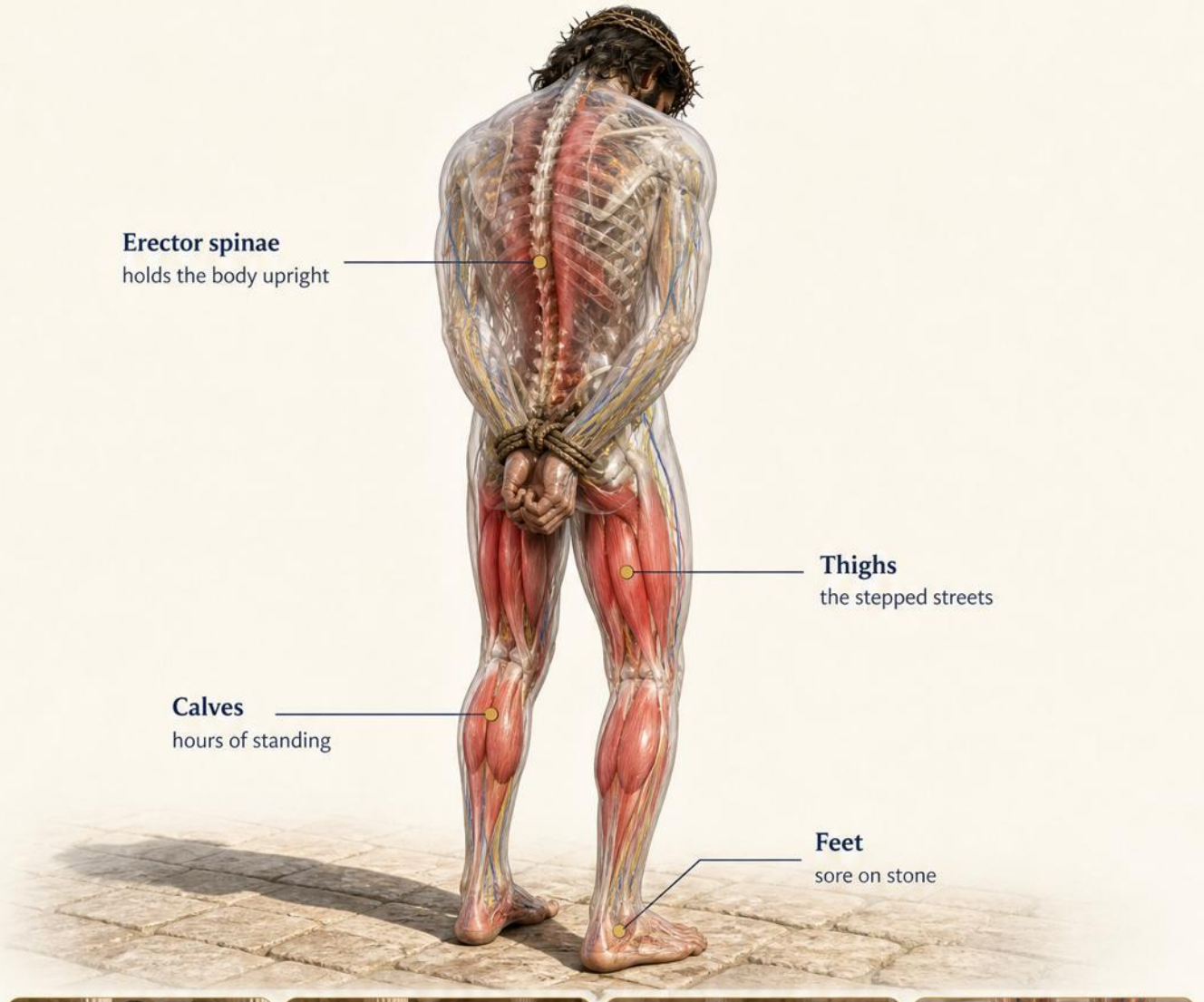
Counting the night and the morning, the walks between Gethsemane, the high priest, Pilate and Herod add up to roughly 2.5 miles (estimate), much of it on stepped streets.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

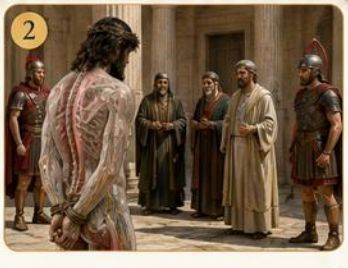
Sent from Pilate to Herod and back again (Luke 23:7, 11), bound and under guard.

Class 3 · Before Pilate and Herod

Fatigue of the Legs and Back











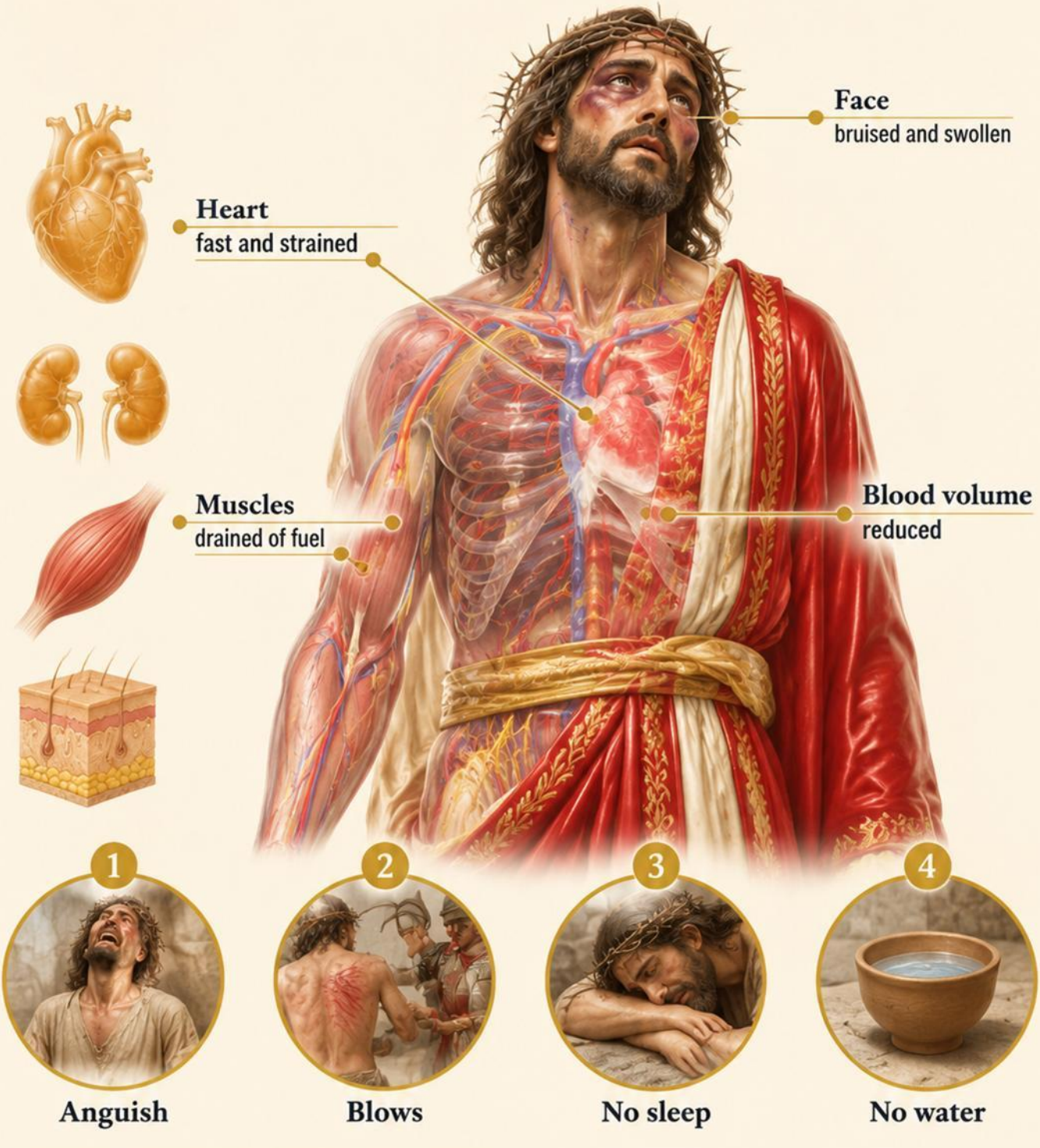
Medical Insight

Standing for hours and climbing stairs tire the large muscles of the legs and back. Without food or rest, those muscles cannot refill their fuel.

What the Body Endured

He stood through accusation after accusation, and before Herod "he answered him nothing" (Luke 23:9).

A Body Weakened Before the Sentence



Medical Insight

By the time of the sentence the body had faced anguish, blows, sleeplessness and fluid loss. Physicians who study the Passion note he was already weakened before the scourging began.

What the body endured

Herod and his soldiers mocked him and "arrayed him in a gorgeous robe" (Luke 23:11).

What Scripture Says

"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

JOHN 18:37

Context:
Before the Roman governor, Jesus speaks of a kingdom that is not of this world.

"Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing."

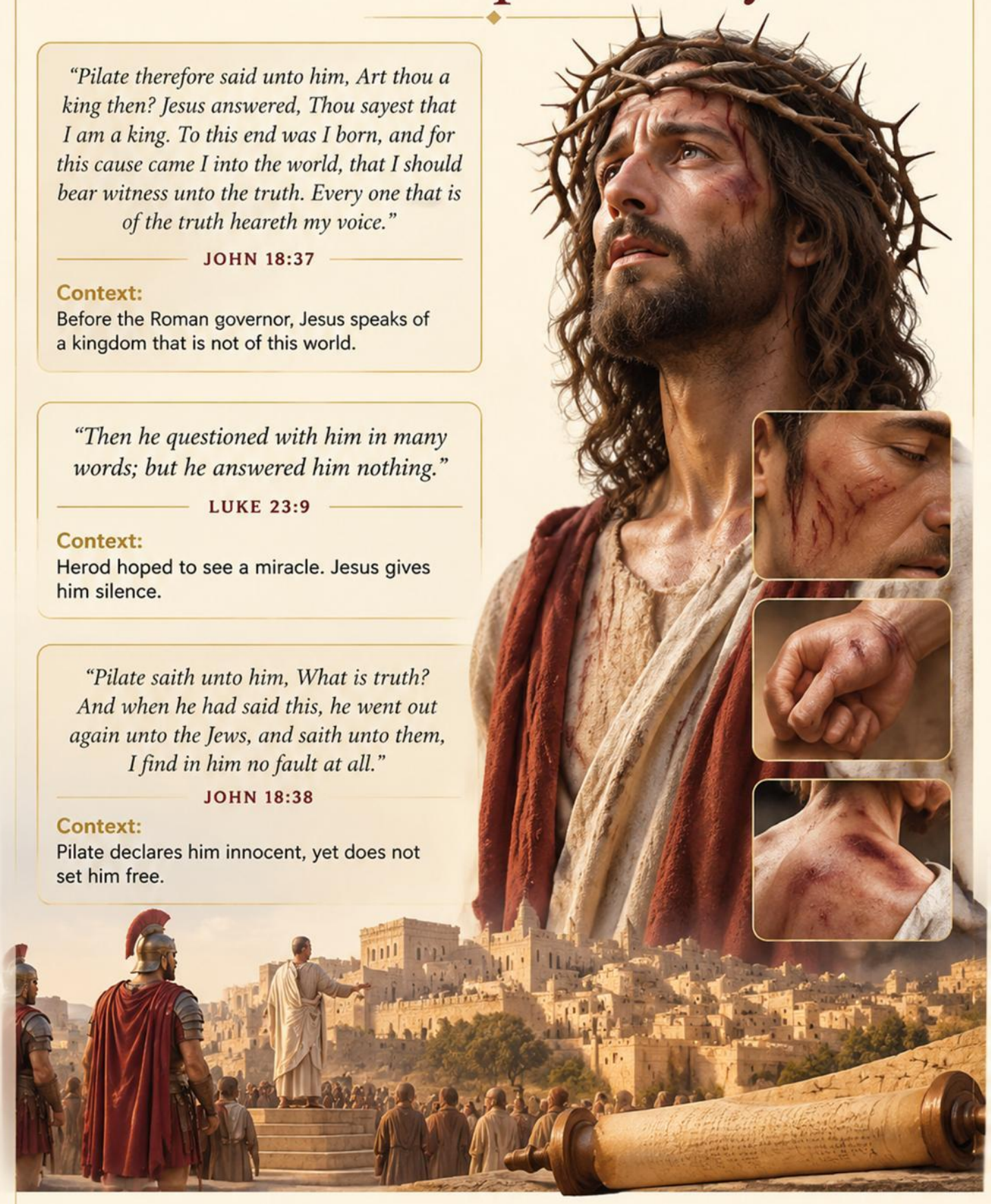
LUKE 23:9

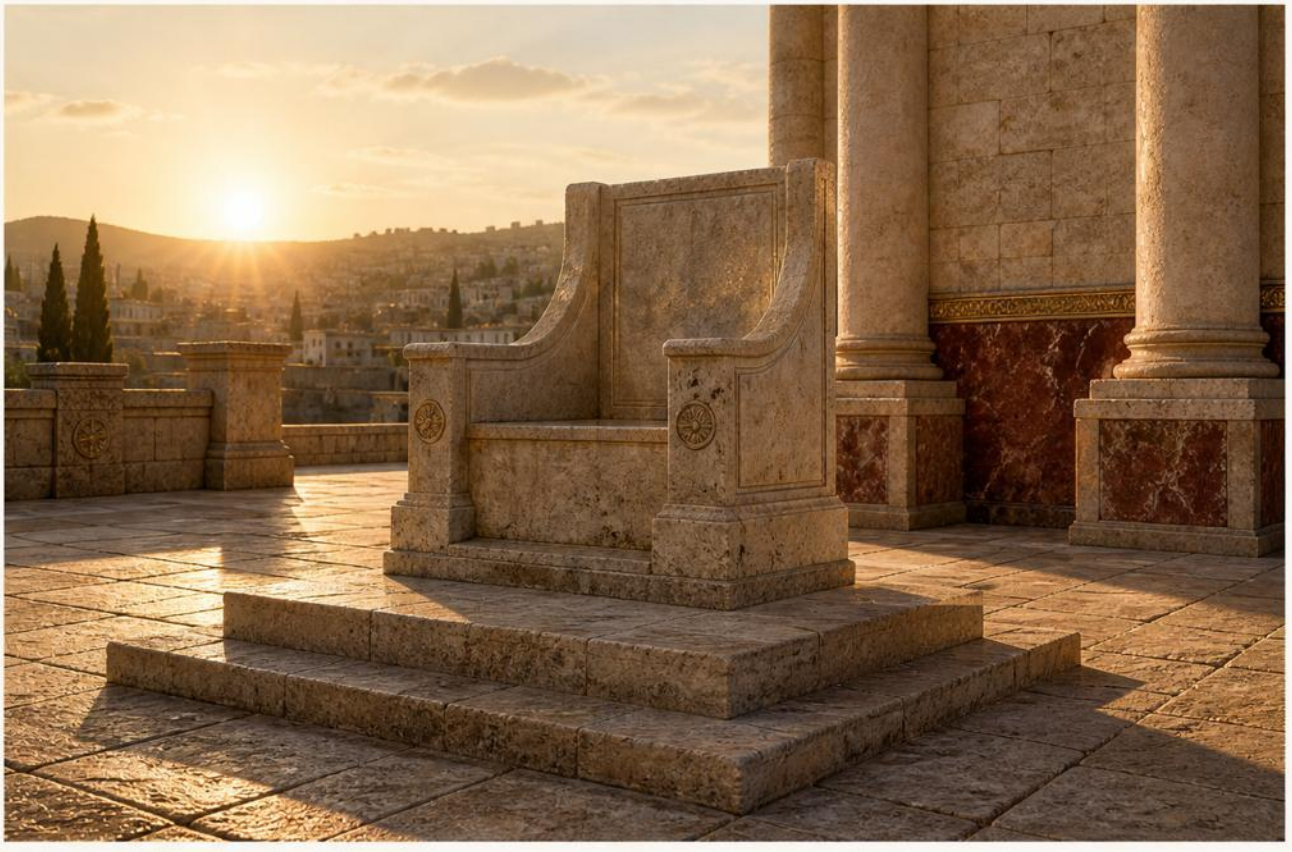
Context:
Herod hoped to see a miracle. Jesus gives him silence.

"Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all."

JOHN 18:38

Context:
Pilate declares him innocent, yet does not set him free.





CLASS 3 · BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

The Silent King

That morning Jesus stood before the two most powerful men in Judea. Pilate asked him about truth; Herod wanted a show. To one he spoke, to the other he gave silence. Both found nothing worthy of death, and still neither did what was right. Power that fears the crowd is never truly free. Jesus, tired, bruised and bound, was the only free man in the room. He had come "to bear witness unto the truth", and he would not trade it to save himself. Truth is not an idea to debate from a judgment seat; it is a Person to follow.

Reflect

1. Like Pilate, when have you known what was right but feared what others would think?

2. What does Jesus' silence before Herod teach us about when not to defend ourselves?



CLASS 3 · BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

Before Pilate

"What is truth?" (John 18:38)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 3

BEFORE PILATE AND HEROD

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will see that Jesus was declared innocent and still condemned, and that he chose truth over self-defense.

CLASS TIME

45

MINUTES

READING

Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
2. Pilate said three times he found no fault in Jesus. Why did he not release him?
3. What does it mean to be "of the truth" today?

ACTIVITY

On the Jerusalem map, trace the route from Gethsemane to the praetorium, to Herod and back. Estimate the total distance together.

SUGGESTED TIMING

5′	10′	10′	10′	7′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

"To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth"

JOHN 18:37 · KJV

IV

CLASS 4
THE SCOURGING



WHEN:
Friday · about 8 am

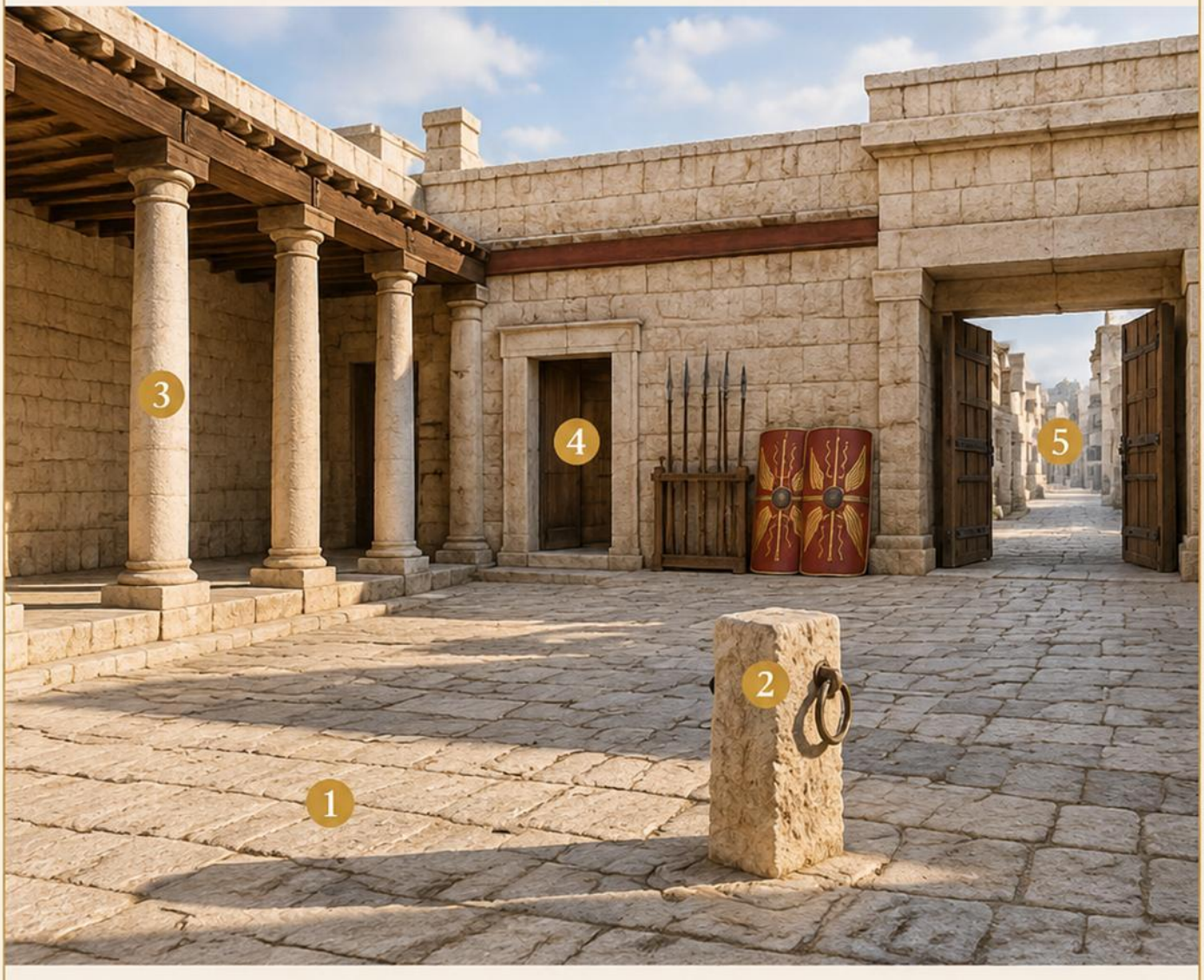
WHERE:
The courtyard of the praetorium

Pilate releases Barabbas and has Jesus scourged. Roman scourging was brutal, carried out by soldiers before crucifixion, with no fixed limit on the lashes.



CLASS 4 · THE SCOURGING

The Courtyard of the Scourging



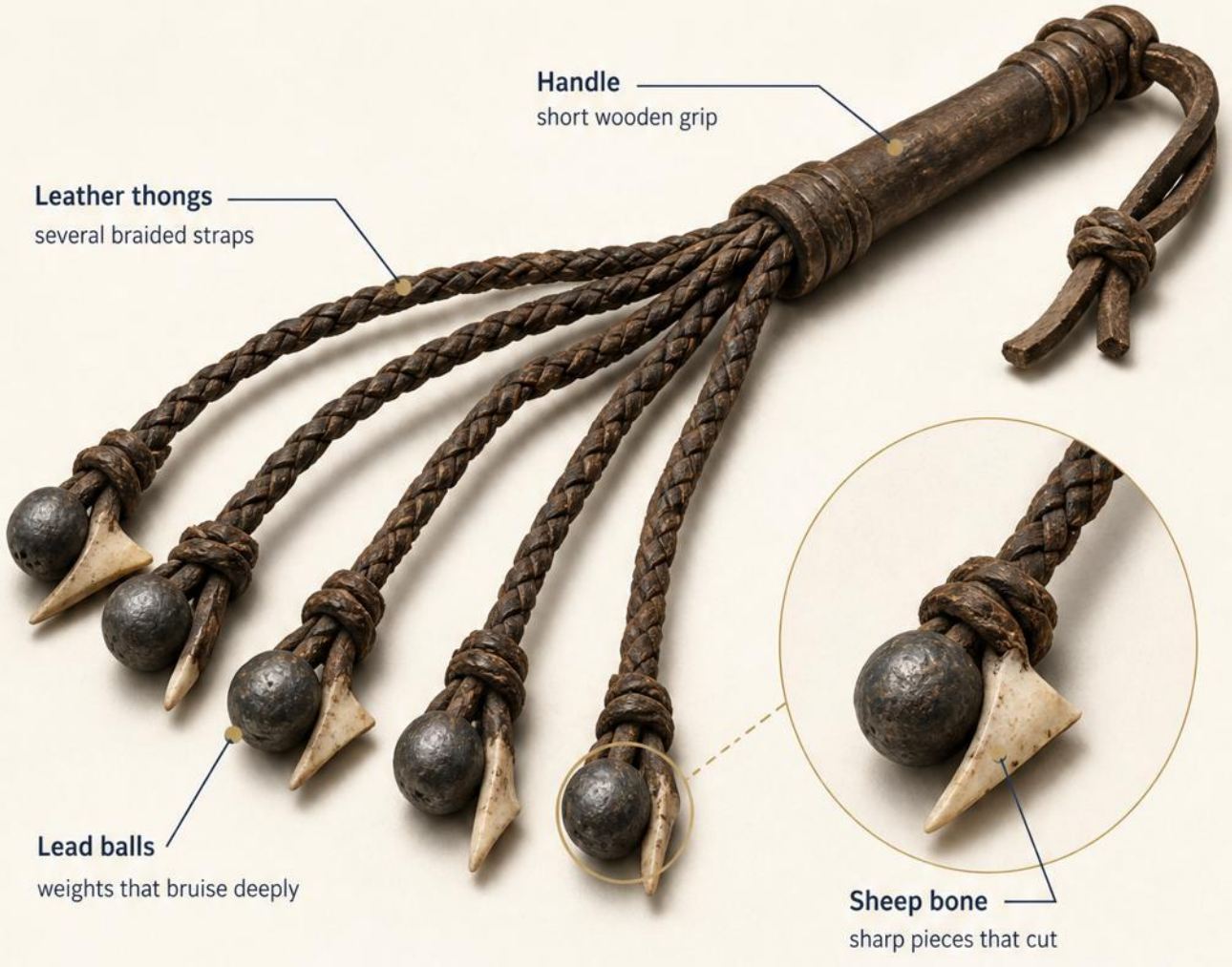
1. Stone pavement
2. Low post with iron ring
3. Colonnade
4. Guard room
5. Gate to the street

HISTORICAL NOTE

Jewish law limited a beating to forty stripes (Deuteronomy 25:3). Roman scourging set no fixed number, it was meant to weaken the condemned before crucifixion.

CLASS 4 · THE SCOURGING

THE ROMAN FLAGRUM



MEDICAL INSIGHT

The flagrum was a short whip with leather thongs weighted with small lead balls or bits of sheep bone. It was built to bruise and tear, and was used before crucifixion.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

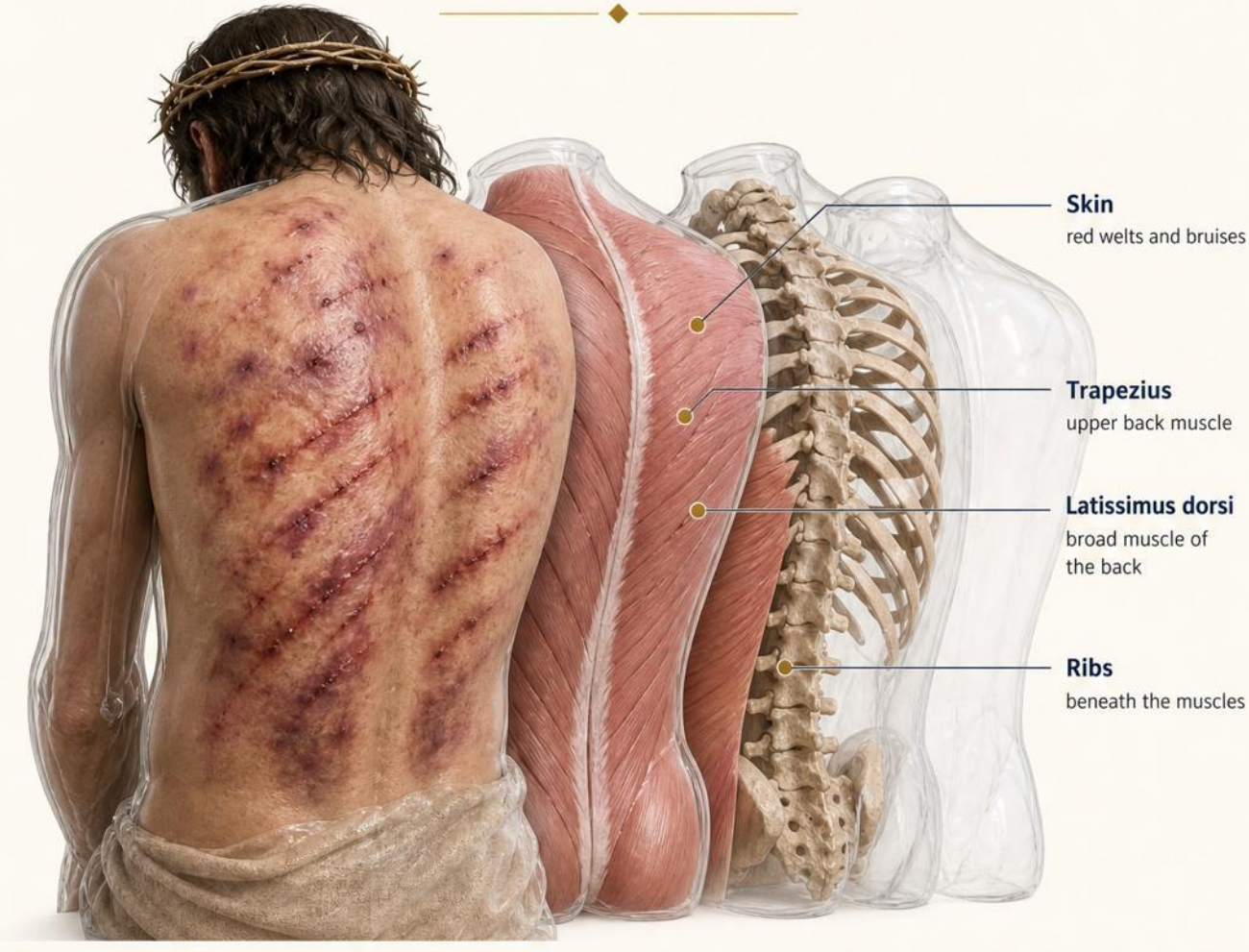
The Gospels say only that Pilate "scourged Jesus" (Matthew 27:26); the number of lashes is not recorded.

CURIOSITY

This reconstruction follows Roman sources and Edwards et al. (1986).

CLASS 4 • THE SCOURGING

What the Lashes Did to the Back





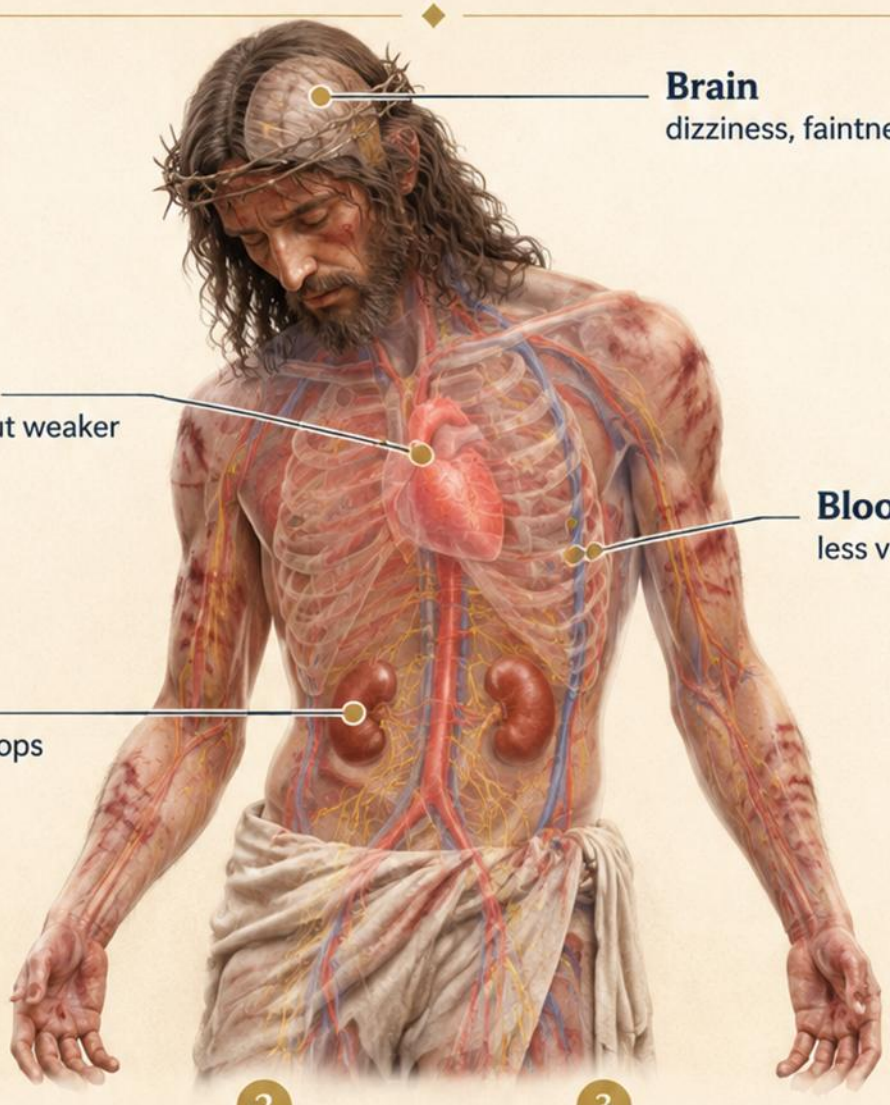
MEDICAL INSIGHT

The lead weights caused deep bruises; the bone and leather tore the skin. Repeated blows turned welts into torn skin over the back and legs and could reach the muscle beneath.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

Isaiah had written: "with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5)

Blood Loss and the Start of Shock



1 Blood loss

2 Fast pulse

3 Low pressure

4 Faintness

Medical Insight

Hypovolemic shock means too little blood volume for the body's needs. Blood and fluid lost in the scourging, on top of dehydration, bring a fast, weak pulse, thirst and faintness.

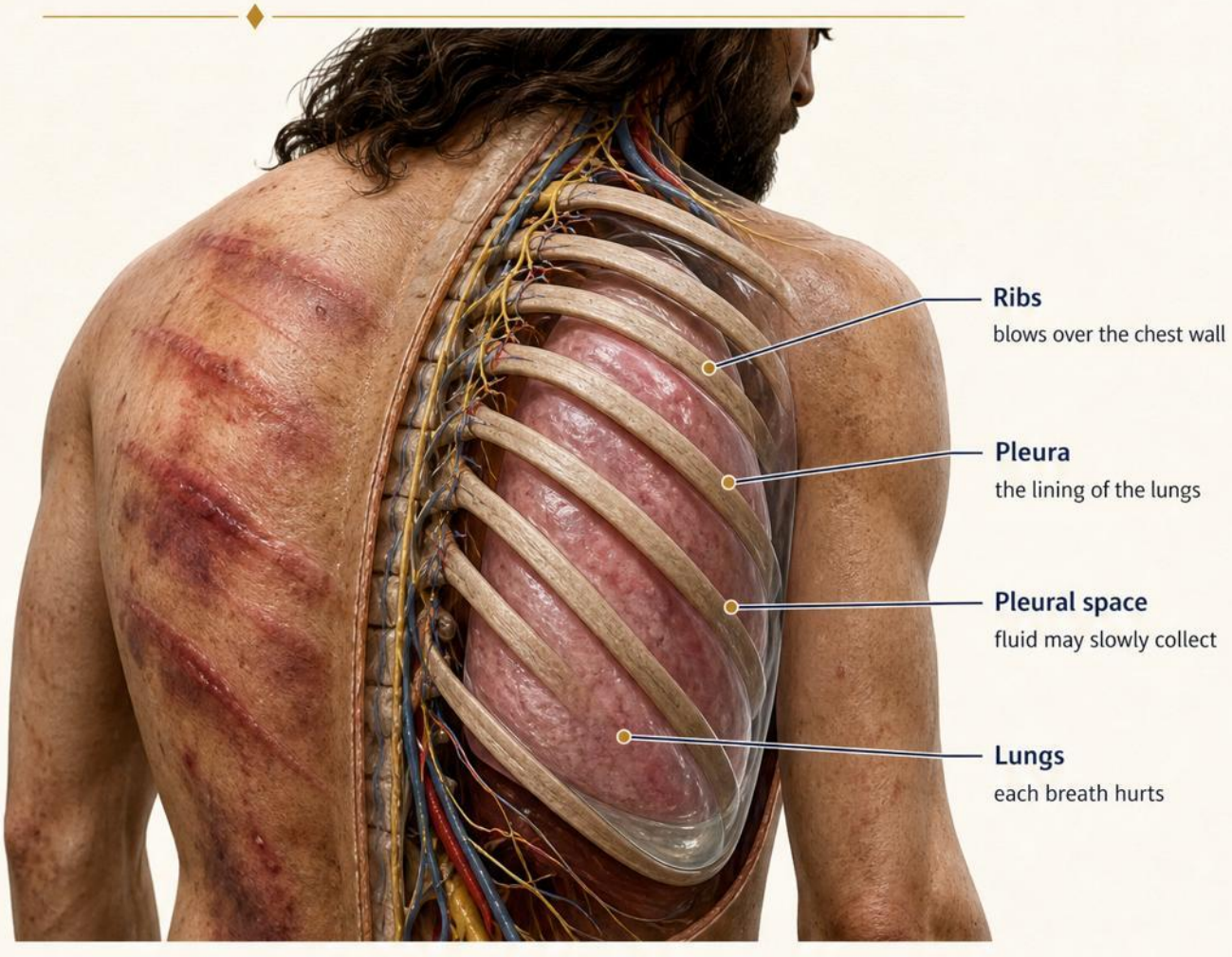
What the body endured



This weakness may explain why another man was later made to carry the beam.

CLASS 4 · THE SCOURGING

Pain and Early Chest Trauma





Medical Insight

Blows across the back can bruise the chest wall and lungs. One view (Edwards et al., 1986) suggests fluid slowly collected around the lungs; this is a medical reconstruction, not a detail the Gospels give.

What the Body Endured

Breathing became painful, and the cross still lay ahead.

What Scripture Says



"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him."

JOHN 19:1

Context:
John records the scourging in a single plain sentence.

"And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."

MARK 15:15

Context:
Pilate chooses to satisfy the crowd rather than release an innocent man.



"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

ISAIAH 53:5

Context:
Written centuries earlier, Isaiah's words describe the suffering servant.



Class 4 · The Scourging

By His Stripes

The Gospel writers do not linger on the scourging. They write a single word and move on. Perhaps they knew their first readers had seen it and needed no description. We, who have not, can study what each lash did, and it is right to be moved. But Scripture invites us to see more than wounds. Isaiah says these stripes are for us: "with his stripes we are healed." Peter, who ran away that night, would later write the same words to suffering believers (1 Peter 2:24). The marks on his back are the cost of our peace.

Reflect

1. **Why do you think the Gospels describe the scourging so briefly?**

2. **What does "with his stripes we are healed" mean for you personally?**



CLASS 4 · THE SCOURGING

The Scourging

“with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 4

THE SCOURGING

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand what Roman scourging involved and connect it with Isaiah's prophecy of healing.

CLASS TIME

50

MINUTES

READING

John 19:1; Mark 15:15; Isaiah 53:3-6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Romans scourge prisoners before crucifixion?
2. How does Isaiah 53 help us understand the meaning of these wounds?
3. How should knowing what Jesus suffered change the way we live?

ACTIVITY

Read Isaiah 53:3-6 slowly. Have students underline every word that describes suffering and every word that says “our” or “we”.

SUGGESTED TIMING

6′	11′	11′	11′	8′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

ISAIAH 53:5 · KJV

The Crown of Thorns

Friday · about 8 – 9 am | The hall of the praetorium

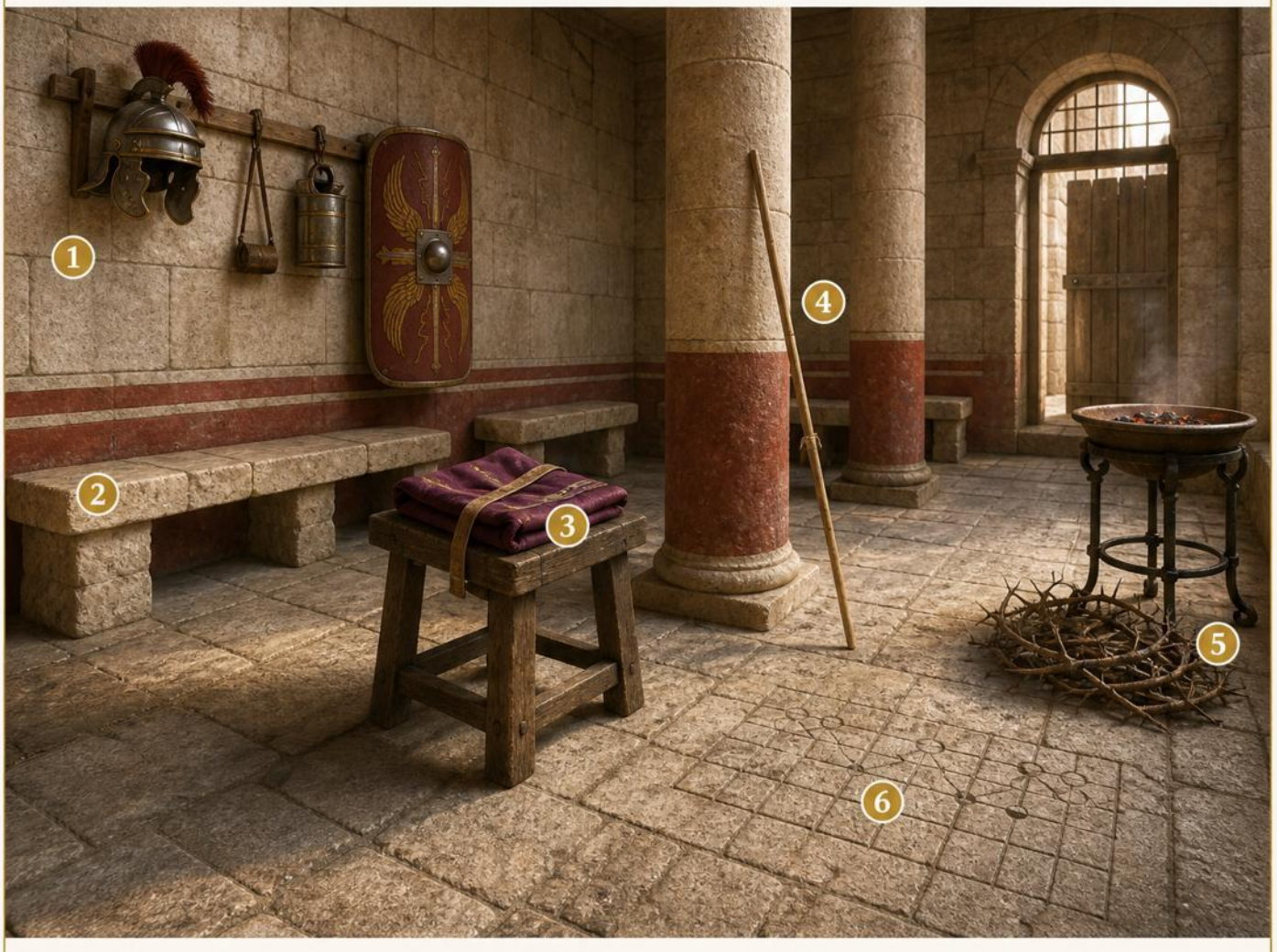
The soldiers gather the whole band, dress Jesus in a robe, press a crown of thorns on his head and mock him as king. Then Pilate brings him out: Behold the man.





CLASS 5 · THE CROWN OF THORNS

The Hall of the Soldiers



Legend

1. Soldiers' hall
2. Stone benches
3. The robe
4. The reed
5. Thorny branches
6. Game board in the pavement

Historical note

A game board carved in paving stones under the Ecce Homo convent is often linked to this scene, but that pavement probably dates from the second century, after the time of Jesus.

The Crown of Thorns

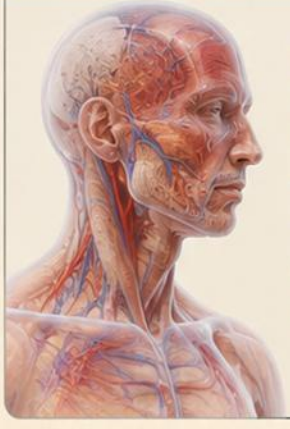
Cap shape
may have covered the whole head

Christ's-thorn jujube
Ziziphus spina-christi

Woven branches
platted by soldiers

Thorny burnet
Sarcopoterium spinosum

MEDICAL INSIGHT



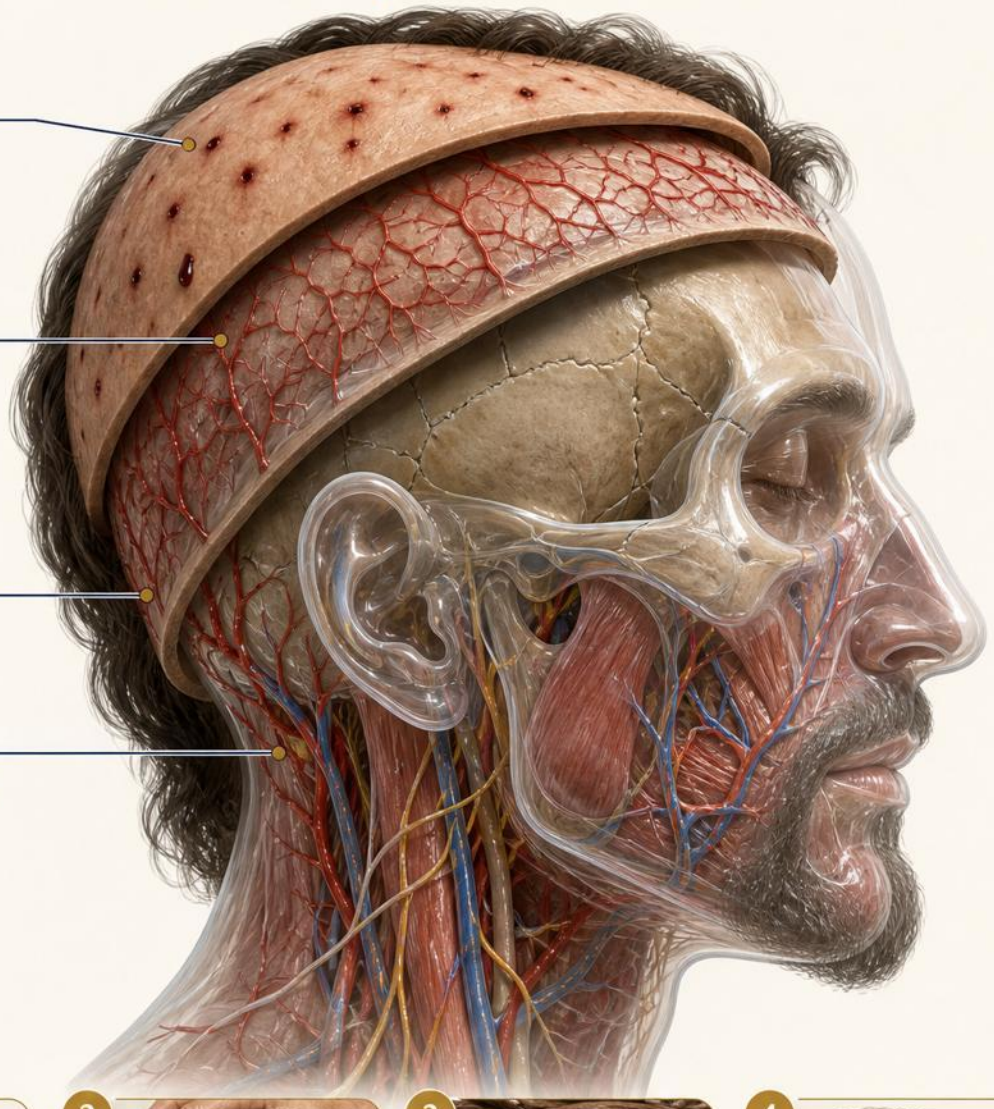
The soldiers "platted a crown of thorns". Many scholars think it was a cap rather than a ring; the plant is debated, with these two shrubs the leading candidates.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED



A mock crown for a mock king, pressed down by soldiers.

THE SCALP: SMALL WOUNDS THAT BLEED





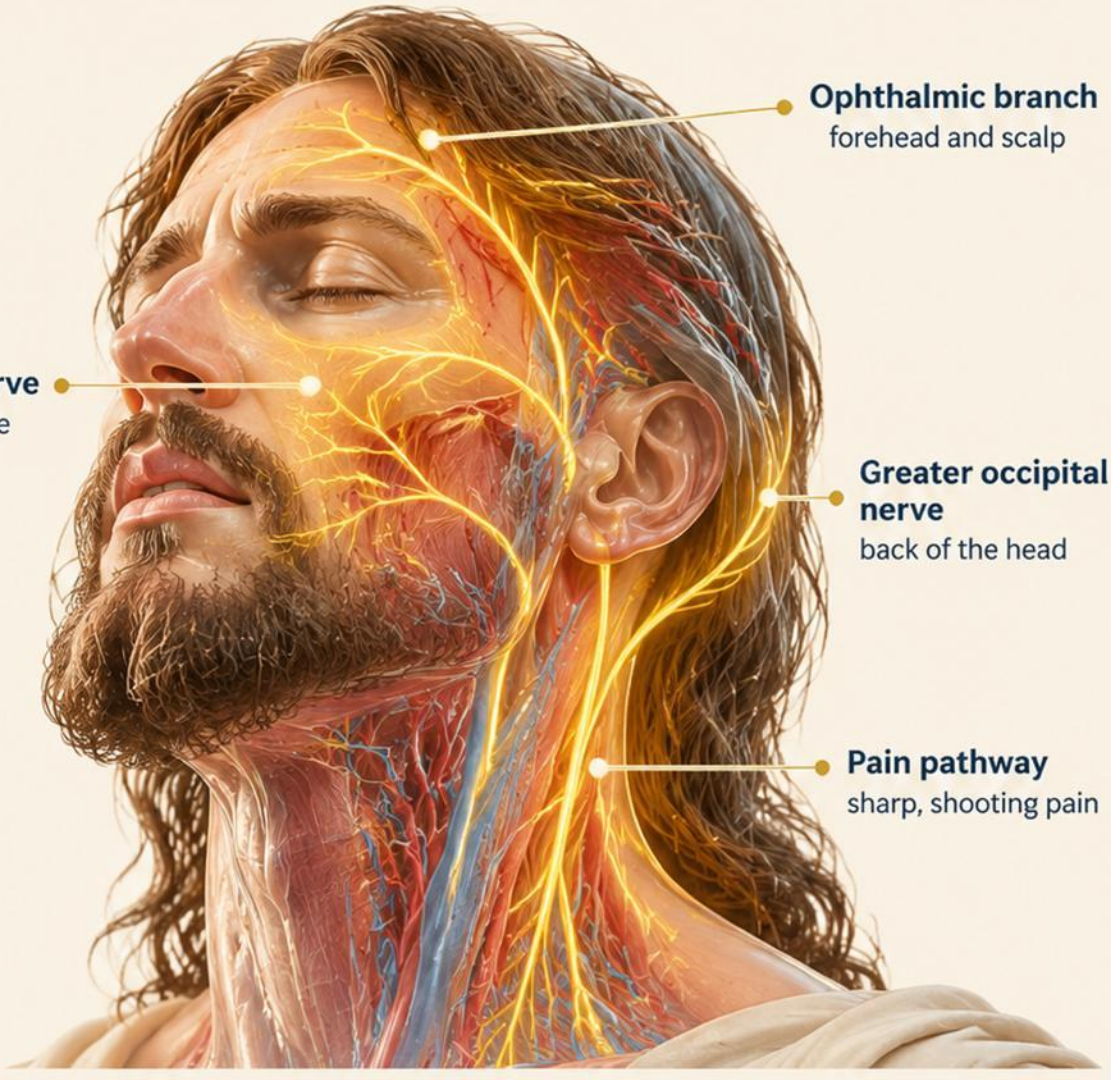
MEDICAL INSIGHT

The scalp has one of the richest blood supplies of the body, and its vessels do not close easily when cut. Even small punctures there bleed more than expected.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

Many small wounds across the head, adding to the blood already lost.

The Nerves of the Face and Head





Medical Insight



Branches of the trigeminal nerve serve the forehead and face; the occipital nerves serve the back of the head. Thorns pressing on them can cause sharp, shooting pain, a view argued by Zugibe.

What the body endured

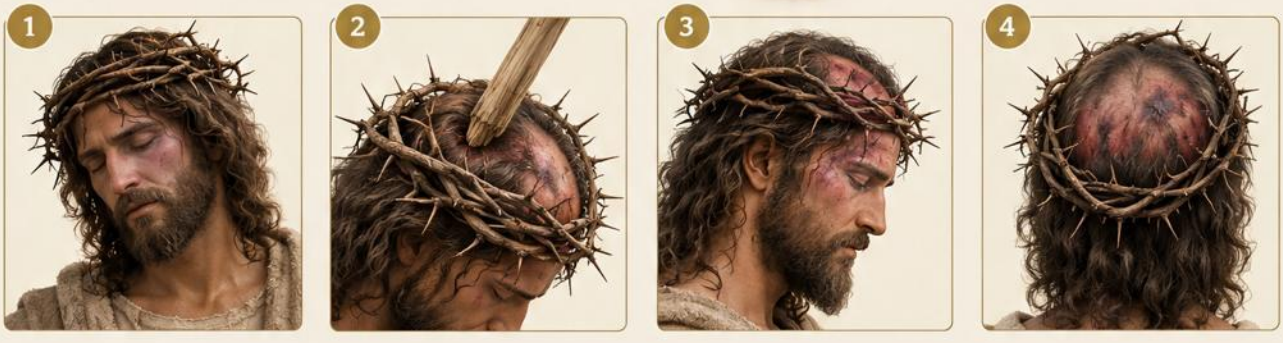


Pain that could flare with every movement of the head.

CLASS 5 · THE CROWN OF THORNS

STRUCK WITH THE REED





MEDICAL INSIGHT

Matthew says they "took the reed, and smote him on the head" (Matthew 27:30). Each blow would press the thorns further into the scalp.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

Beaten with the same reed they had given him as a scepter.

CURIOSITY

CLASS 5 · THE CROWN OF THORNS

WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS

*"And when they had platted a crown of thorns,
they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand:
and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him,
saying, Hail, King of the Jews!"*

MATTHEW 27:29

CONTEXT: The soldiers turn the charge against him, King of the Jews, into a cruel game.

*"And they smote him on the head with a reed,
and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees
worshipped him."*

MARK 15:19

CONTEXT: Mockery and violence go together.

*"Then came Jesus forth,
wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe.
And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!"*

JOHN 19:5

CONTEXT: Pilate presents him to the crowd, perhaps hoping the sight will be enough.





CLASS 5 · THE CROWN OF THORNS

BEHOLD THE MAN

Thorns first appear in the Bible as part of the curse after the fall (Genesis 3:18). On the morning of the Passion, soldiers wove those thorns into a crown and pressed it onto the head of the true King. They meant it as a joke; God meant it as a sign. The one who wore the curse came to carry it away. When Pilate said "Behold the man!" he showed the crowd a bruised and bleeding prisoner. Look again, and you see the King who chose humiliation for our sake. He wore the crown of thorns so that we might receive a crown of life.

REFLECT

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus wore thorns, the sign of the curse?
2. When you "behold the man", what do you see in him?



CLASS 5 · THE CROWN OF THORNS

The Crown of Thorns

"Behold the man!" (John 19:5)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 5

THE CROWN OF THORNS

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the crown of thorns as both a physical torment and a sign of Christ's kingship.

CLASS TIME

45

MINUTES

READING

Matthew 27:27-31; John 19:1-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the soldiers dress Jesus as a king?
2. Why would wounds on the scalp bleed so much?
3. How is Jesus truly a King, even when crowned with thorns?

ACTIVITY

Pass around a photo or a branch of a thorny plant. Read Genesis 3:17-18 and John 19:2, and talk about the link between the curse and the crown.

SUGGESTED TIMING

5′	10′	10′	10′	7′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!"

JOHN 19:5 · KJV

VI

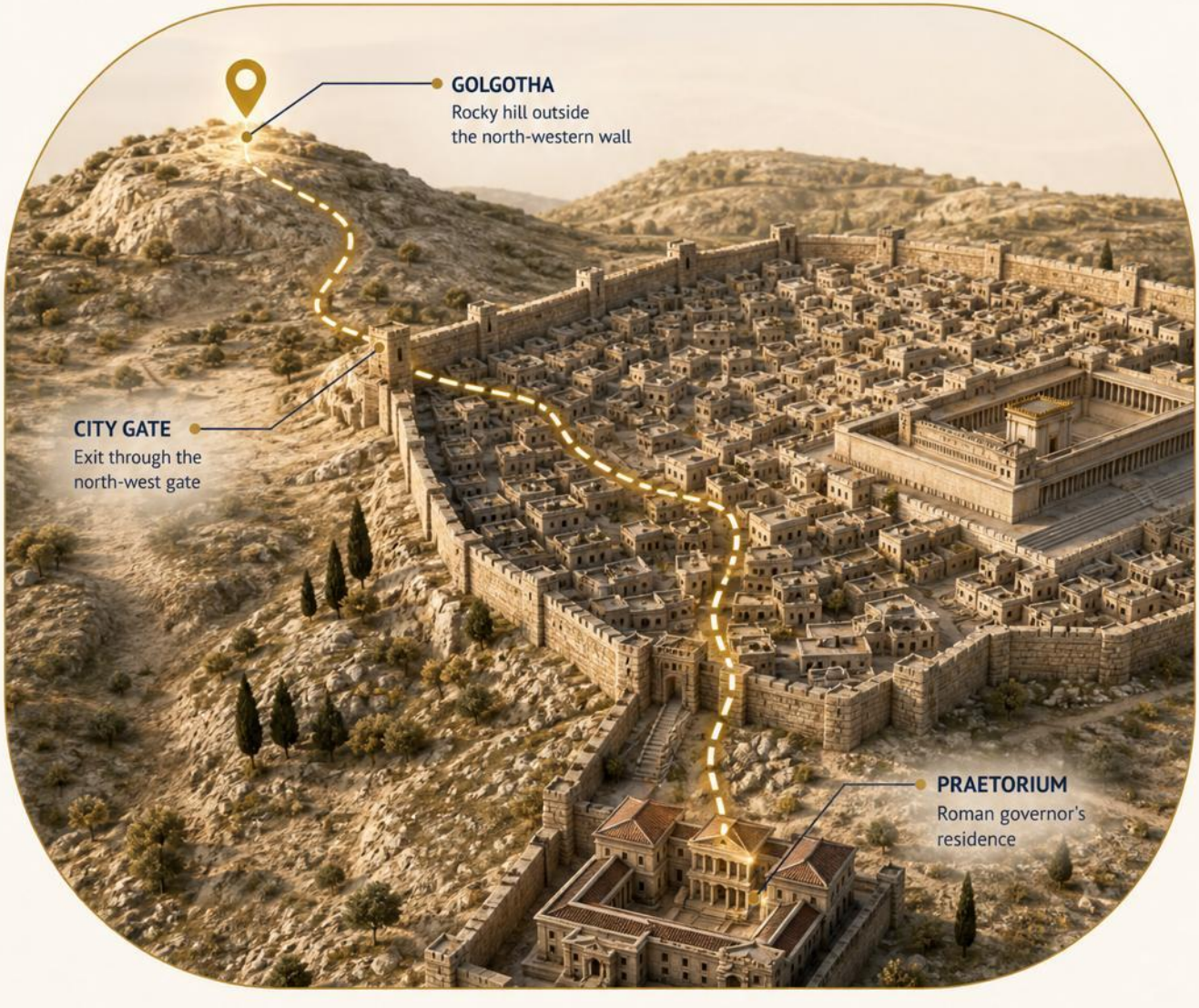
CLASS 6

The Via Dolorosa

WHEN:
Friday · about 9 am

WHERE:
From the praetorium to Golgotha · about 650 yards (estimate)

Jesus is led out carrying his cross. Too weak to go on, he is helped by Simon of Cyrene, who is compelled to carry the beam to Golgotha, outside the city wall.



CLASS 6 · THE VIA DOLOROSA

The Road to Golgotha



Legend

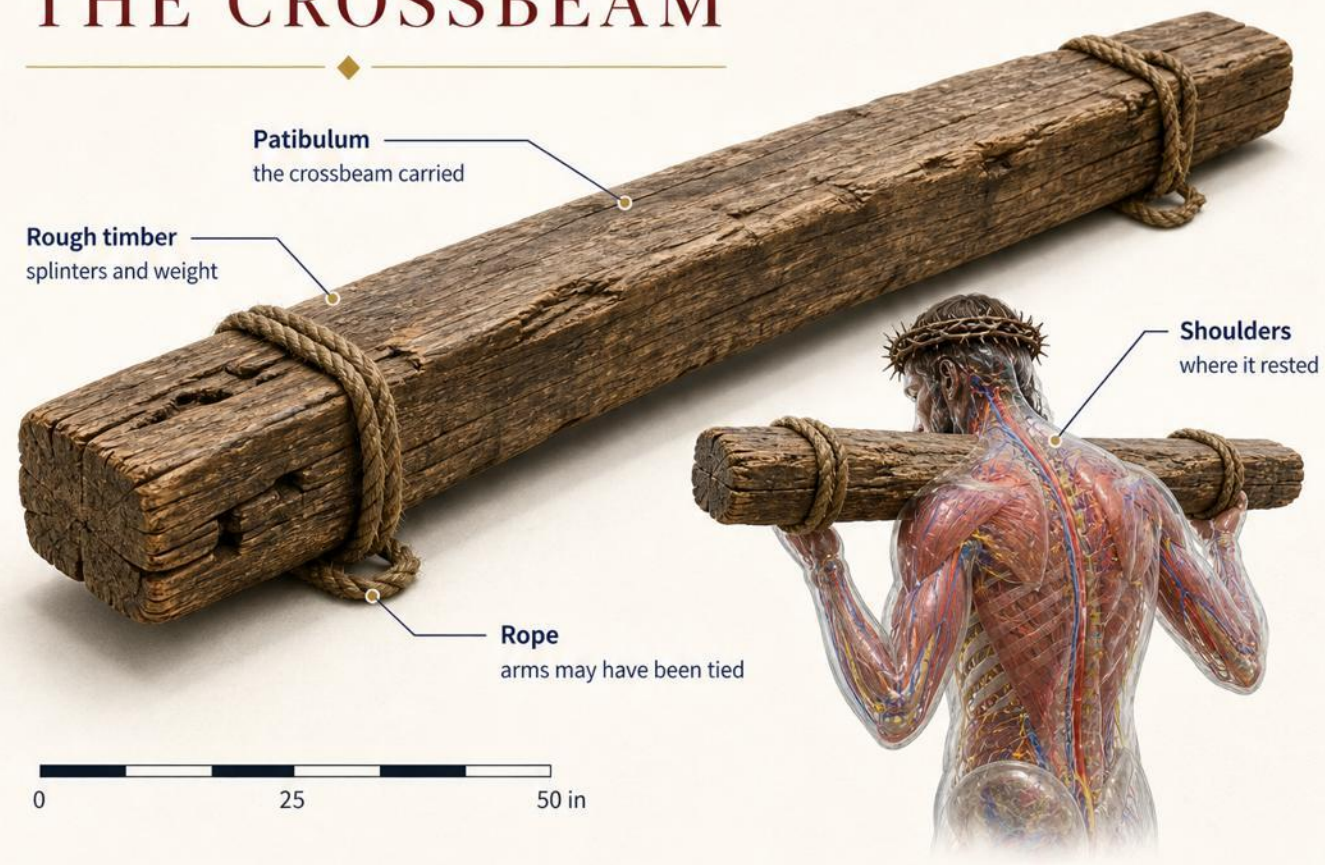
1. Narrow streets
2. City gate
3. City wall
4. Road out of the city
5. Golgotha
6. Garden nearby

Historical Note

The modern Via Dolorosa follows a route fixed by pilgrims in later centuries. Wherever the praetorium stood, Golgotha lay outside the city wall, near a road.

CLASS 6 · THE VIA DOLOROSA

THE PATIBULUM: THE CROSSBEAM





Medical Insight

Most scholars think the condemned carried only the crossbeam; the upright stake usually stood at the site. Estimates put the beam at about 75–125 lb.

What the Body Endured

He went forth "bearing his cross" (John 19:17) until another was made to carry it.

Falls on the Stone Street

Face
bruised again in a fall

Knees
bruised on stone

Kneecap
takes the impact

Hands
scraped, if free



Medical Insight



The Gospels do not mention falls; they come from later tradition. Still, a man in shock under a heavy beam, perhaps with his arms tied to it, could easily fall and be unable to break the fall.

What the body endured



Possible new bruises on the knees and face, on top of earlier wounds.

SHOCK AND WEAKNESS: SIMON IS COMPELLED




1 Praetorium


2 Weakness


3 Simon


4 Golgotha

MEDICAL INSIGHT

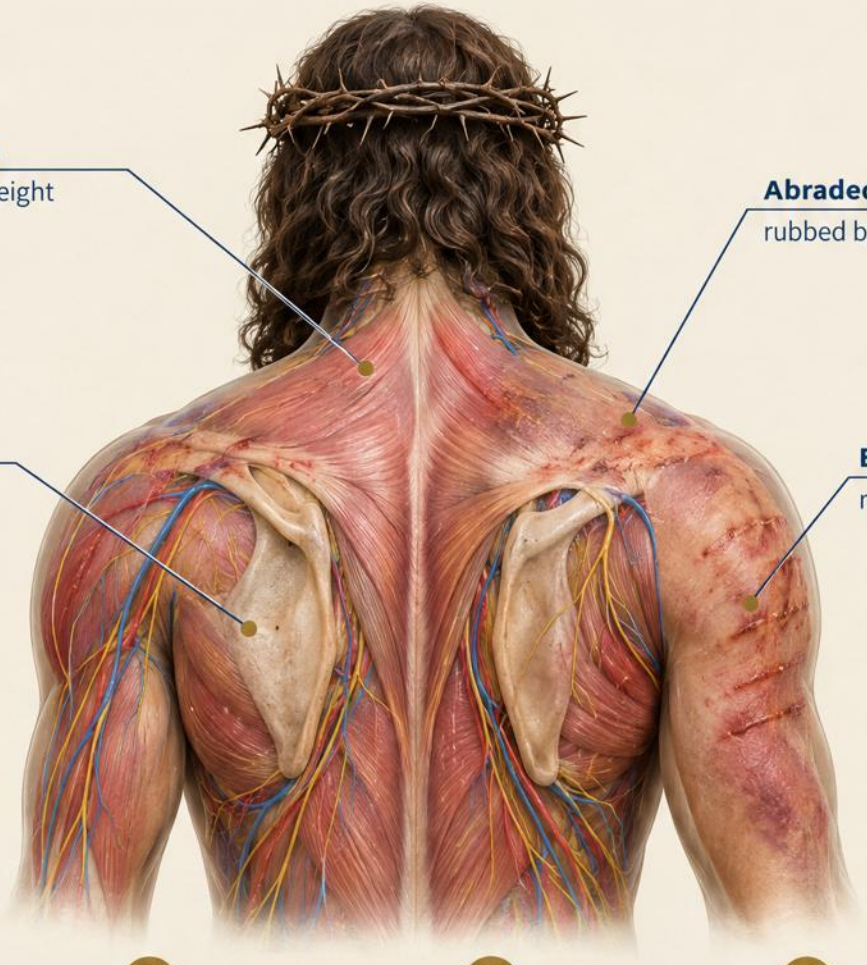
Blood and fluid loss, pain and exhaustion can bring a body to the edge of collapse. The soldiers' need for help suggests he was too weak to carry the beam all the way.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

"And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian... to bear his cross" (Mark 15:21)

CLASS 6 • THE VIA DOLOROSA

The Shoulders Under the Beam





MEDICAL INSIGHT

The rough beam rested on shoulders already torn by the scourging. Friction and pressure would reopen wounds and add new abrasions with every step.

WHAT THE BODY ENDURED

Every step pressed the weight of the wood onto wounded shoulders.

CLASS 6 · THE VIA DOLOROSA

What Scripture Says

"And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:"

JOHN 19:17

CONTEXT

John emphasizes that Jesus set out carrying his own cross.

"And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus."

LUKE 23:26

CONTEXT

A traveller arriving in the city is pressed into service.

"But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children."

LUKE 23:28

CONTEXT

Even on the road, Jesus thinks of others.





CLASS 6 ·· THE VIA DOLOROSA

Take Up Your Cross

Simon of Cyrene came to Jerusalem for the feast and ended up carrying a condemned man's cross. He did not choose it; he was compelled. Yet Mark names his sons, Alexander and Rufus, as if the first readers knew them. Perhaps the man who carried the cross that day became a follower of the one who died on it. Jesus had told his disciples to take up their cross and follow him (Luke 9:23). On the road to Golgotha we see what that looks like: walking close behind him, sharing the weight, and finding that the burden leads us to him.

REFLECT

1. What is a cross you are carrying right now?
2. Who around you needs someone to help them carry their load, as Simon did?



CLASS 6 · THE VIA DOLOROSA

The Via Dolorosa

"weep not for me" (Luke 23:28)

TEACHER'S PAGE · CLASS 6

THE VIA DOLOROSA

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will understand the physical weakness of Jesus on the way to Golgotha and what it means to take up our cross.

CLASS TIME

50

MINUTES

READING

Mark 15:20-22; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:16-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the soldiers force Simon to carry the cross?
2. Why might Mark mention Simon's sons, Alexander and Rufus?
3. What does it look like to “take up your cross” in daily life?

ACTIVITY

Walk 650 yards together (or around the building) and talk about the distance after the scourging and a sleepless night.

SUGGESTED TIMING

6′	11′	11′	11′	8′	3′
OPEN & PRAY	READ	THE PLATES	DISCUSS	ACTIVITY	CLOSE

TEACHER'S NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

LUKE 9:23 · KJV