

Did He Die?

▪ What We Found

We gave the survival theory its strongest form, including its best texts: Pilate's surprise (Mark 15:44) and Josephus's account of a crucifixion survivor. The same texts turned: Pilate's surprise triggered formal certification by the centurion, and Josephus's three rescued men, taken down alive into expert care, still lost two of three, none scourged or speared. The spear of John 19:34, the blood and water, the unanimous testimony of hostile and neutral sources, and the skeptic Strauss's own verdict (a half-dead survivor cannot found a victory faith) all pressed one way. And CCC 646 planted a thread: the witnesses had seen Lazarus; they knew resurrection, and claimed something else.

▪ Voices of the Church

St. Ignatius of Antioch • *Trallians* 9 (c. AD 107)

"He was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate; He was truly crucified, and died... He was also truly raised from the dead." (ANF, abridged.)

St. Melito of Sardis • *On the Pascha*

The earliest preaching did not soften the death; it magnified it: the Master was truly slain. (Summary.)

St. John Chrysostom • *Baptismal Catecheses* 3 (Good Friday Office)

From the pierced side flow blood and water: the Eucharist and baptism; the Church is born from the side of Christ asleep in death. (Summary.)

▪ Live It This Week

- Read John 19:31-37 as if you were a coroner. Write down one detail you had never noticed.
- Notice how often you reasonably trust professional certifications by strangers.

▪ Scripture Memory Verse

Truly this man was the Son of God!

Mark 15:39 (RSV2CE)

▪ Before Next Session

Before Session 3: read Mark 15:42-47 (the burial).

Catechism connections for this session: CCC 645-646, 597, 619.