

Chapter 5

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What point was Jesus making when he cleansed the Temple?*

By cleansing the Temple, Jesus was expressing God's will that Temple worship be free from hypocrisy and corruption and that the Temple be a place where all those in need—widows, orphans, aliens, the blind and the lame—are served and welcomed.

2. *How was Jesus' anointing an initiation for him?*

Jesus' anointing was an initiation for his role as the Messiah, our heavenly king and priest who offers the sacrificial lamb—himself.

3. *How is John's account of the Last Supper different from that of the synoptic Gospels?*

In John's Gospel, the Last Supper is not a Passover meal but takes place the day before the Passover celebration. The Last Supper meal in John's Gospel does not record Jesus' institution of the Eucharist like the synoptic Gospels. Instead it recounts Jesus' discourses that focus mainly on discipleship.

4. *With what charge did the Sanhedrin ultimately accuse Jesus and why?*

The Sanhedrin accused Jesus of blasphemy. Blasphemy refers to disrespect for God, claiming to have the powers of God, or claiming to be God. Mark and Matthew explicitly say that the Sanhedrin found Jesus guilty of blasphemy because he spoke of himself as the Son of Man (see Mark 14:61–64, Matthew 26:63–65). In John's Gospel, when Jesus is arrested, the soldiers ask if he is Jesus the Nazorean and he responds by saying, "I AM," which is God's holy name (see John 18:5, Exodus 3:14).

5. *What accusations did Jesus face in front of Pontius Pilate?*

Jesus was accused of misleading the people; opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar; inciting the people to revolt; and calling himself a king.

6. *What actually caused someone to die when he or she was crucified?*

Usually the weight of the body pulling down on the arms made it increasingly difficult to breathe, and the victim would die of suffocation. Other causes included thirst, hunger, exhaustion, exposure to the elements, heart failure, or any combination of these.

7. *Why did the Romans use crucifixion as their form of the death penalty?*

Crucifixion was the Roman form of the death penalty reserved for the lower classes who committed the worst of crimes. It was intended to be a humiliating and painful death, done in public view so that many people would see it, deterring them from committing the same crime. It was a Roman form of terrorism used to frighten the population into submission.

8. *What does the torn veil symbolize?*

In the tabernacle, a veil separated the Holy of Holies from the other areas in the tabernacle. In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant, in which the presence of God resided. When Jesus died, the veil was torn, which symbolized that all of humanity had access to God's presence.



9. *What details about Jesus' death are unique to the Gospel of John?*

The Gospel of John addresses a few events not covered in the synoptic Gospels:

- Jesus interacts with his mother and the beloved disciple. From the cross, Jesus presents the beloved disciple to his mother. He also asks Mary to accept John as her son.
- After Jesus' death, the soldiers checked the condition of the other two who were crucified with Jesus, and they broke their legs, as this would hasten their deaths. Much like the bones of the Paschal lamb which were not to be broken at Passover, Jesus' legs were left intact because they found that he was already dead.
- The soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, and blood and water flowed from the wound.

