

Easter 'interviews'



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Interview 1: Palm Sunday

1. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today. I understand you were there in the crowd, at the first ever Palm Sunday.

2. That's right.

1. Can you explain to our viewers what it was like?

2. It was joyous! It was noisy! It was unexpected! It was a wonderful celebration of Jesus and who he was!

1. Tell me more...

2. Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a young donkey. That was a surprise – we thought he was a king. Kings usually ride horses, so we were a bit puzzled. I guess he was a different kind of king to the one we were expecting.

1. How was he greeted as he entered Jerusalem?

2. People – hundreds of them amazingly - lay down their cloaks on the road and tore down palm branches from the surrounding trees. They waved them and yelled, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord' and 'Hosanna!' It was awesome!

1. Thank you for talking to us. This is Ruth Mathewson for BBC news in Jerusalem.

Interview 2: Last Supper

1. Good Morning. Thank you for agreeing to this interview today. I understand you were there at the first ever Maundy Thursday?

2. That is correct. I am Peter, one of Jesus' disciples.

1. Am I correct in thinking Jesus arranged a Passover Meal for you and the other disciples.

2. That is right. We had celebrated the Jewish Passover Meal together before. This time Jesus hired an upstairs room in Jerusalem. We prepared the bread, the lamb and the wine.

1. Was the evening like previous Passovers together?

2. No it wasn't! It was a total surprise! For a start Jesus washed our feet. That is usually the job of a servant. We were shocked.

1. How else did it differ?

2. Jesus gave the meal a whole new meaning. He told us he was going to die – I didn't expect that. He broke the bread and said whenever we did that in future we should remember his body. He shared the wine with us and said in future we should remember his blood shed for us.

1. Anything else?

2. Yes, he told us one of us would betray him – turned out it was Judas Iscariot. One of his disciples! I did not see that coming!

1. He had a message for you too didn't he...

2. Yes. Sadly. He told me I would deny even knowing him. It wasn't a surprise to him...everything he said came true...

1. Thank you for speaking to us. This is Esther Johnson for BBC news in Jerusalem.

Interview 3: Pontius Pilate & the Trial

1: Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today. I understand you were there when Jesus was put on trial before Pontius Pilate?

2: That's right. I was so surprised there was a trial because I didn't think Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.

1. So why was he tried?

2. The religious leaders did not like the things Jesus taught, and they decided to get rid of him. They tried him in their courts, late at night, where no one could see. They found him guilty, but they needed the agreement of the Romans to put him to death. So, they took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Surprisingly Jesus said very little – he didn't dispute the accusations. But even

Pilate could see that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. 'He's not guilty' said Pilate. 'He doesn't deserve to die.'

1. So what happened?

2. Well, Pilate decided to ask the crowd what they thought. I was surprised he did that – I thought it made him seem weak. He said he would release Jesus or another prisoner called Barabbas. Barabbas had committed many crimes.

1. What did the crowd say?

2. They yelled, 'crucify Jesus!' and 'free Barabbas!' Again, I was very surprised – the crowds had yelled, 'blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord only a few days earlier'. It was a custom to set a prisoner free at Passover – I didn't think the crowd would be given a choice or that they would choose Barabbas a known criminal. After all Jesus did for people. But crowds can be cruel. Barabbas was set free – he must have been surprised! I guess Pilate didn't want a riot, so he gave in and gave the order for Jesus to die.

1. Thank you for speaking to us. This is Reuben Silver for the BBC in Jerusalem.

Interview 4: Good Friday

1. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today. I understand you were there when Jesus of Nazareth died, on the first ever Good Friday?

2. Yes. I was.

1. How was it different from all the many other crucifixions that have taken place in Jerusalem?

2. There were lots of differences. A lot of surprises you might say.

1. Really? Like what?

2. Guilty thieves hung on crosses beside him. Jesus talked to them. One of them recognised Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. Also, Jesus prayed from the cross. 'Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.' Maybe he meant the soldiers who put him on the cross. Perhaps the religious leaders, perhaps Pilate, perhaps the crowd, perhaps all of us...

1. Anything else?

2. Oh yes! From noon till 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the sky turned dark. The earth shook. The curtain in the holy place of the temple split in two. A Roman soldier declared, "This man was innocent. He hasn't done anything wrong. Surely this man was the Son of God.' Then Jesus cried out, 'Father, I put my spirit into your hands!' And when he had done that, he died. I was astonished by everything that happened! Everything was unexpected that day.

1. Thank you for talking to us. This is Ben Gold for the BBC in Jerusalem.

Interview 5: Easter Sunday

1. Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed today. I understand you were there on the first ever Easter Sunday?

2. Yes. It was completely incredible. I have never seen anything like it!

1. I understand, rather surprisingly, that there was a religious leader called Joseph. He had not agreed with the others that Jesus should be put to death. He knew that Jesus hadn't done anything wrong. He asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Pilate agreed and Joseph put Jesus' body in a tomb and had a great stone rolled in front of it. The Romans put guards outside it. You visited the tomb 3 days later?

2. That is correct. I wanted to put special spices on his body. When I arrived the stone had been rolled away. The tomb was open! I found the courage to go inside and discovered something even more surprising. The tomb was empty! The grave clothes were there but no body! I tried to puzzle out what had happened then two angels suddenly appeared, dressed all bright and white!

1 Did they speak to you?

2. They said, 'Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? He has risen from the dead!' I rushed back to tell Jesus' disciples what I had seen. I spoke to Peter.

1. Did he believe you?

2. No! No surprise there – women are not deemed to be credible witnesses. But Peter checked my story out and discovered the tomb was was amazed that evening when Jesus appeared to all the disciples in the locked room where they were staying. And more amazed still when Jesus invited them all to touch

the place in his hands where the nails had gone, and then ate a piece of fish to prove that he wasn't a ghost. 'I had to die,' said Jesus. 'Even though I had never done anything wrong. So that all the wrongs that anyone would ever do could be forgiven! 'Many more people have seen Jesus since!

Pause

1. This is the most astonishing news story I have ever reported. This is Zachariah Adams for the BBC in Jerusalem.