



**THE
EASTER
STORY**

**Jesus died and
came back to life again**

A Simple English Version for Indigenous Australians

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This is from what Mark wrote, chapters 14-16:

The Leaders of the Jewish Ceremonies Wanted To Kill Jesus

14 The leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and law teachers wanted to kill Jesus, so they met together. They wanted to work out a way to sneak up on Jesus and grab him. Those Jewish people always had a special ceremony every year called Passover when they ate flat damper. Two days before that special ceremony, those men said to each other, “Everybody likes Jesus. We cannot grab him when there are lots of people here for the ceremony. They will get angry and we will have a very big fight.”

A Woman Put Special Perfume On Jesus’ Head

3-5 Jesus was at a town called Bethany and he was having dinner at Simon’s house. (Before that time Simon was sick with skin sickness but now he was alright again.) A woman came into the house carrying special perfume in a pretty bottle. That perfume smelled really good. It cost a lot of money. She opened the bottle and poured the perfume on Jesus’ head. Some of the people sitting there growled at her. They said, “Why did you spill out that perfume? You can sell it for a lot of money. And you can give that money to poor people. So why didn’t you sell it?”

6-9 But Jesus said to them, “Leave her alone! Don’t make trouble for her! She did something really good to me. You will always have poor people with you and you can give them money any time you want. But I will not be here with you much longer! I will die soon and they will bury my body. This woman poured the perfume on

me to get my body ready. She did a good thing. Listen to me now, I'm telling you a true story! When people will tell God's story all over the world they will tell about what this woman did today, and lots of people will know about her."

Judas Agreed To Sell Jesus

10-11 Judas Iscariot was one of the 12 men that Jesus picked out. He changed sides and went to the Jewish leaders. He said, "I can help you catch Jesus." They were very happy when they heard him say this. They promised to pay him money. So Judas kept thinking about this and waited for the right time to help them catch Jesus.

Jesus And His Friends Ate The Passover Supper

12 The day came when people kill a young sheep to cook it and eat it. That was the start of the ceremony time called Passover. They ate flat damper too at that time. On that day some of his followers came to him and asked him, "Where do you want us all to eat this supper. We want to go and get that place ready."

13-15 Jesus said, "Alright. You 2 go over there into Jerusalem, and when you get there you will meet a man. He will be carrying a big jug of water. Follow him, and when he goes into a house, you talk to the boss of that house. You tell him, 'Our teacher wants you to show us the room you have for visitors. He wants to eat the Passover supper there with his followers.' Then that boss will take you upstairs to a big room that he's got set up and ready. That is where you can get the supper ready for us."

16 Those 2 men left him and went into Jerusalem. Everything happened just like Jesus told them—they

did meet that man and talk to the boss. So they got the food ready for that special Passover supper.

17-19 When the sun went down, Jesus and his special followers came to that house to eat the Passover supper. While they were eating, Jesus said to them, “One of you men who is eating with me here right now, will help the people who want to kill me.” His 12 followers got really upset when he said that, and each of them said to him, “Not me! You are not talking about me are you?”

20-21 Jesus said, “It is one of you who is eating out of this dish with me right now. I am the special man from God and I have got to die just like God’s book says, but the man who helps my enemies to catch me is going to get really bad trouble from God! He will wish he was never born.”

22 After that, while they were still eating their supper, Jesus picked up some damper and said thank you to God for it, then he broke it into pieces and gave it to his friends. Then he said, “This damper is my body, take a piece and eat it.”

23-26 Then he picked up the cup of wine and said thank you to God for it, then he gave it to them and they passed it around and each one drank a little bit of wine. He told them, “This wine is my blood. I will die and pour out my blood for many people. It is like I use my blood to sign an agreement that God makes with people, to say they are not guilty of the bad things they have done. I am telling you straight, I will not drink any wine again until the day when I sit down with God, when he shows himself to be the number one King.” After Jesus said this, they all sang a song to God, and then they

went out of that house to go to the mountain called Olive Trees.

Jesus Talked Straight To Peter

27-28 When they walked along the road, Jesus talked to them. He said, “All you mob will run away and leave me. A long time ago God got one of his men to write about this in his book. He wrote:

God will knock down the man that looks after the sheep
and all his sheep will run away.

“I will die, like that man wrote, but after that God will make me alive again. Then I will go ahead of you to Galilee country and wait for you there. You will see me there.”

29 Peter said, “Maybe all the others will run away, but not me! No way!”

30 But Jesus said to him, “Listen to me, Peter. Tonight you will talk and you will lie to people. You will say that you don’t know me. A chook will sing out tonight, just like it always does before the sun comes up. But people will hear you say 3 times that you do not know me before that chook sings out 2 times.”

31 But Peter spoke really strongly to Jesus. He said, “No! People might try to make me say that. They might even tell me that they will kill me, but I will never say that I don’t know you.” All the other followers talked the same way.

Jesus Prayed In The Place Called Gethsemane

32-34 Jesus and His followers came to the place called Gethsemane. He said to them, “I want you to sit here

and wait for me. I am going to pray to God.” He asked Peter, James and John to go with Him, and they walked away from the others. But as they walked, he said to them, “I feel really sad right now. I feel so sad, it is like I am dying! Stay here and look out for trouble.”

35-36 Then Jesus walked away from them a little bit and lay down on the ground. He said to God, “Father, You can do anything. You can take this trouble away from me. It is too hard for me. But you do what you want to do, not what I want.”

37-38 Jesus went back to his 3 friends and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Wake up, Simon. Can’t you stay awake with me for just one hour? I want you to look out for trouble. I want you to pray to God so that you will not go to sleep. I know you want to do the right thing, but your body is weak and wants to sleep.”

39-40 Jesus left them again, and prayed again. He kept asking God the same thing. Then he came back to his friends and they were asleep again, because they were very tired. Those 3 men just couldn’t stay awake. When they woke up, they were so ashamed they didn’t know what to say to him.

41-42 Jesus went away and prayed again. When he came back to his friends he said, “Are you still asleep? You can’t sleep any more now. Look! I am the special man from God but those bad men are coming to get me. Hey, get up, we have got to go now. See, here is the man who is helping them catch me.”

A Mob of Men Grabbed Jesus

43-47 Jesus was still talking when Judas came up. He was one of Jesus’ 12 special followers. Those leaders of the

Jewish ceremonies and law teachers and those Jewish elders, they gave Judas a big mob of men to go with him. Those men all had long knives and fighting sticks. When that mob got there, Judas walked up to Jesus and said, “Teacher. Teacher.” and kissed him on the cheek, to show those men which one they had to arrest. So they grabbed Jesus. One of Jesus’ friends was standing right there and he pulled out his long knife. He cut off the ear of a man who worked for the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies.

48-50 Jesus said to the mob, “Why have you got all these long knives and fighting sticks? I’m not a dangerous man! No way! I was in God’s house every day teaching people but you did not arrest me then. But you can grab me now, because a long time ago the men who spoke for God said that you would do this. They wrote about it in God’s book.” When Jesus followers heard this they got frightened and ran away and left him there.

51-52 There was a young man who followed along behind Jesus, and he just had a sheet wrapped round him. That mob tried to grab him, but they only grabbed the sheet and he ran away naked.

They Took Jesus To Court

53-54 The mob took Jesus to the big house of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. That house had a yard with a wall around it. Peter followed a little bit behind the mob. He walked into the yard of that house and sat down with them near a fire. All the other leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and elders and law teachers sat down together at that house.

- 55-56 Those bosses tried to get witnesses to say, “We saw him do wrong things!” so that they could kill him, but nobody had a strong story against him. Lots of people stood up and told lies about Jesus, but they did not agree with each other. Their stories were all mixed up.
- 57-59 Some men stood up and told this lie. They said, “We heard this man say, ‘I will knock down God’s house and build another one in 3 days. Lots of men built this one, but I will build the new one just by myself.’” But even these men had their stories mixed up and they did not agree with each other.
- 60-61 The big boss of the Jewish ceremonies stood up in the meeting and said to Jesus, “All these people said that you did bad things. You heard what they said. What are you going to say?” But Jesus did not answer him. He just kept his mouth shut. Then that boss said, “Alright, tell us this: Are you the special one called Christ, that God promised to send? Are you the Son of God?”
- 62 Jesus said, “Yes, I am. I am the special man from God, and you mob will all see me later on when I am sitting there in heaven on the right hand side of God, the powerful one. And you will see me too when I come in the clouds.”
- 63-64 Then that big boss of the Jewish ceremonies got so angry that he tore his clothes and said to them, “Did you hear that? He said that he is the same as God! We don’t need anyone to say anything more, we heard it ourselves. So what do you reckon, did he break our law or not?” They all said, “He did that. He broke our law. He’s got to die.”
- 65 Some of the people in that meeting spat on him. They tied a rag across his eyes so that he could not see, then

they hit him with their hands and said, “Hey! You reckon that God has made you clever, do you? Alright, tell us who hit you!” Then as the guards took Jesus away they bashed him.

Peter Reckoned That He Did Not Know Jesus

66-68 All this time Peter was sitting next to the fire in the yard of the big boss of the Jewish ceremonies. One of the girls who was working in that house came along and saw Peter there. She looked at him and said, “Hey. I think you were with this man from Nazareth called Jesus?” But Peter said, “No! I don’t know what you are talking about.” Then Peter went back to the gate of that yard. Just then a chook sang out.

69-70 That working girl saw him at the gate and started to tell the people there, “This man is one of Jesus’ friends.” But again Peter said, “No, not me!” A little bit later those people there at that gate said to Peter, “You talk like the Galilee people talk, and Jesus comes from Galilee, so you must be one of his mob.”

71-72 Peter got really wild and he swore and said, “I tell you I do not know this man! I don’t know what you are talking about! God knows that what I say is true, or if not, he can kill me!” Straight away that chook sang out again and Peter remembered what Jesus said to him before, when he said, “People will hear you say 3 times that you do not know me before that chook sings out 2 times.” Peter started to cry. He could not stop himself.

The Council Took Jesus To The Judge

15 Early in the morning the Jewish council talked about
1-2 what they were going to do with Jesus. They were the

leaders of the Jewish ceremonies, law teachers and elders. They tied Jesus up and made him walk over to the big government boss, whose name was Pilate. They asked Pilate to judge Jesus. So Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of all these Jewish people?” Jesus answered, “Those are your words.”

3-5 Those leaders of the Jewish ceremonies blamed Jesus and told Pilate he did a lot of bad things, but Jesus did not say anything. Then Pilate said to him, “Listen to what they are saying. Why don’t you speak up for yourself?” But Jesus said nothing, and Pilate was really surprised.

6-11 Every year, when they had the ceremony called Passover, Pilate always did something special for the people in Jerusalem. He let one prisoner go free from the jail.

At this Passover time the Jerusalem people came to Pilate and asked him to let one prisoner go. They came up to Pilate while Jesus was still there. At that same time there was a murderer called Barabbas in jail there. He was in jail with his gang because they fought against the government and killed some of the government people.

Pilate knew why the leaders of the Jewish ceremonies brought Jesus to him. They brought Jesus to Pilate because they were jealous of Jesus and they wanted Pilate to kill him. So when the Jerusalem people asked Pilate to let one prisoner go, he said, “Alright. How about I let Jesus go, this man you say is the king of you Jew mob. What do you reckon?” But the ceremony leaders stirred up all those people, and the people told Pilate, “No! Not him! We want you to let

Barabbas go out of jail.”

12-14 Pilate said, “Then what do you want me to do with this man you call the king of you Jew mob?” They all yelled, “Kill him! Nail him to a cross and leave him to die!” Pilate said, “Why? What did he do that was so bad?” But they did not listen, they yelled even louder, “Kill him! Nail him to a cross!”

15 Pilate did not want trouble, so he did what that mob wanted. He let Barabbas go out of jail and he told his Roman soldiers to whip Jesus a lot. When they finished whipping him, Pilate told them to nail him to a cross and leave him to die.

The Soldiers Rubbish Jesus

16-19 The soldiers took Jesus outside into the yard of Pilate’s place. They sang out to the rest of the soldiers there to come out into that yard. They put a purple coat on Jesus. They found some prickly branches and made those branches into a thing that looked like a crown. Then they put it on Jesus’ head and rubbished him. They got down on their knees in front of him and said, “Hey, Your Majesty. You are the King of the Jew mob!” And they kept on hitting him on the head with a stick, and they spat on him.

20 When they finished making fun of him, they took off the long purple coat and put his own clothes back on him. Then they took him out to the place where they were going to kill him.

21-22 There was a man called Simon walking into the town from the bush. Simon was from a country called Cyrene and he had 2 sons, called Alexander and Rufus. The soldiers forced Simon to carry Jesus’ cross for

him. Then they came to the place called Golgotha which means Skull Place.

23 Then the soldiers tried to give Jesus some wine to drink. This wine had some medicine called myrrh mixed in it. Jesus would not drink it.

24-26 The soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross, then they stood it up, and left him to die like that. They put up a piece of wood above his head with writing on it to say why they killed him. The writing on it said The King of the Jews. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed Jesus to that cross. After that the soldiers gambled with each other to get his clothes.

27-30 The soldiers nailed up 2 criminals on crosses next to Jesus. One criminal was on Jesus' left hand side and the other was on his right hand side. Some people who walked past Jesus rubbished him. They stood there and shook their heads to shame him, and said, "You reckon you can knock down God's house and then build it again in 3 days, do you? Alright, come on, save yourself! Get off the cross and come down!"

31-32 The leaders of the Jewish ceremonies and law teachers joined in and laughed at Jesus. They said to each other, "He saved other people, but he cannot save himself. So he thinks he is the one that God sent. He reckons he is our king, the king for Israel. No way! We have got to see him come down off that cross. We won't believe until we see him do that!" The other men hanging on their crosses joined in and rubbished Jesus.

Jesus Died

33-36 In the middle of the day, about 12 o'clock, the whole

country got dark, like it was night time. It stayed dark for about 3 hours, till 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Then Jesus yelled out loud in his language, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, My God, my God, why did you turn your back on me and leave me all by myself? Some of the people standing around heard what Jesus said. They thought that he was calling out for Elijah to come to him from heaven. One man ran and got a sponge and filled it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and held it up to Jesus' mouth so he could suck a bit of it. That man said, "Alright. Just leave him. Let us wait and see if Elijah will come and get him down."

37-39 Jesus yelled out again, and then he died. Over there in God's house in Jerusalem there was a big curtain blocking off the sacred place. At the same time when Jesus died, that curtain just ripped into 2 pieces, right down the middle from the top to the bottom. At the cross, the boss of those Roman soldiers stood near Jesus, and when he saw how Jesus died he said, "I reckon this man really was the son of God!"

Women Saw What Happened

40-41 Before Jesus came to Jerusalem there were lots of women who walked everywhere with him in Galilee. They looked after him there, then they came with him to Jerusalem. They were standing a long way from that cross but they saw what happened to Jesus. Mary Magdalene was one of them. Salome, and that other Mary who was the mother of young James and Joses, they were in that group too.

Joseph Buried Jesus

42-45 Jesus died on the day when the Jewish people got everything ready for their special day called Sabbath, when they did no work. When it was nearly night time a man went to Pilate. His name was Joseph and he came from a place called Arimathea. Everyone said he was a good man. He was waiting for God to show himself to be the number one King. And he was one of the Jewish Council. He stood up strong and wasn't afraid to go to Pilate. He asked him, "Can I get Jesus' body to take care of it our way?" Pilate was surprised. He said, "Is that man dead already?" Then he sent someone to get the boss of the soldiers and asked him, "Is it true? Is that man really dead now?" That boss told Pilate, "Yes, it is true." Then Pilate told Joseph he could take Jesus' body.

46-47 So Joseph bought a good sheet. He took Jesus' body down from the cross and wrapped it in that sheet. (Some time before this Joseph cut a cave in the side of a hill to make a place to bury a body in.) So he took Jesus' body and put it in that cave to bury it. Then he rolled up a big flat rock to block up the cave. Those women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph, they saw where Joseph put the body of Jesus.

God Made Jesus Alive Again

16 The next day was their special day which they called Sabbath. When the sun went down, that special day was finished. Then Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James bought some perfume to put on Jesus body, so they could bury him the right way. On Sunday morning when the sun was just up they

went to that cave where Joseph put Jesus' body. As they walked along they said to each other, "Who is going to roll away that big rock to open up the cave for us? It is way too big for us." But when the women got there they looked up and saw that somebody had already rolled that rock away.

5-7 So they walked into the cave and saw a young man sitting there on the right hand side, wearing really white clothes. They got a big shock. He said to them, "Don't be frightened. You are looking for Jesus' body, the man from Nazareth who they killed on a cross. God made him alive again. That is why he is not here. Look, see this place just here? This is where they put his body, but it is not here now." And he said to them, "Go back to his followers and tell them that they have to go back to Galilee country. Make sure you talk to Peter too. Tell them that Jesus is going ahead of all of you mob to that country, and when you go back there you will see him. You remember, he told you about that some time ago."

8 The women didn't know what to think. They were so frightened they were shaking. They came out of that cave and ran away. Those women were too frightened to talk to anybody. They just ran away.

This is from what Matthew wrote, chapter 28:

9-10 As the women ran away from the cave Jesus came up to them and called out "Hello". They came up to Jesus, and showed him strong respect. They even got down and held on to his feet. Then Jesus said to them "Don't be frightened. Go and tell my other followers to go back to Galilee country and they will see me there."

16-20 The women told that message to his 11 special followers. Those men remembered that Jesus said to meet him on a mountain in Galilee, so they went there. When they saw Jesus they felt really happy, they showed him strong respect and kept on saying “Thank you” to God. But some of them were thinking, “Is this really Jesus? I don’t know.” Then Jesus said to them, “God, my Father, has made me boss of everything now. I am boss of everything up in heaven. And I am boss of everything down here on the earth. So, go out to all the people in the world and tell them about me. Train those people to follow my way and baptise them with water for the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. You have to teach these new followers to do everything that I told you to do. And remember this: I will be with you all the time. I will be here to help you right up till the time when this world will finish.”

This is from what Luke wrote, chapter 24:

50-53 Then Jesus walked with his followers to a town called Bethany. When they got there he lifted up his hands and asked God to be good to them and to make them strong. While he was still talking God lifted him up and took him away from them into heaven. His followers talked to each other about how Jesus is really good and they showed strong respect to God. They went back to Jerusalem and they were very happy. Every day they went to God’s house, and they talked and sang all the time. They said “Thank you God. You are really good!”

Translation Background

The aim of this Simplified English Version of Scripture is to make it easily understood by Indigenous Australians whose mother tongue is an indigenous Australian language. The English used in this translation is simplified in the direction of the features that are common to most Australian languages. This has affected the vocabulary, grammar and rhetorical devices that we have used. We have also followed the principles of meaning based translation wherein we have sought to convey to the readers of this version the same meaning as the original authors conveyed to the original readers, not just in terms of the words used but also of the message contained in those words.

The following are some of the more common modifications we have made:

- Where the grammar of the original has used the passive voice we have used the active voice, since the grammars of most indigenous Australian languages do not have passive voice.
- Where the original text has used an abstract noun to express a concept that is fundamentally an action or a quality we have used a verb or adjective to translate that concept, since abstract nouns are comparatively rare in Australian languages.
- Where the grammar of the original has used long and complicated sentences we have conformed to the grammars of Australian languages by using shorter sentences, making other adjustments as necessary to retain the meaning carried by the grammar of the original.
- Where the original text has implicit information that would not be obvious to our target audience we have made that information explicit.
- Where the original text has used a word or phrase, the literal translation of which would not be understood by our target audience, we have used an explanatory rendering to convey the same meaning, whether or not it involved more words.
- Where the original text has used figurative language that would be taken as literal by our target audience we have stated the meaning of the figure rather than its literal form.

At any one place in our translation we may have used any combination of the above. We have tried to keep the wording and style of this version as close as possible to that used by Indigenous Australians who know English only as a learned language.

Dave Glasgow

Translation Team Coordinator

