

## Passion of Christ: 100 Q/A

- Film only covers final hours in life of Jesus beginning w/last supper to His crucifixion/death
- Garden of Gethsemane: several olive trees over 3000 yrs. old; may have been actual trees where Jesus prayed
- Uses *flashbacks* into Jesus' life to demonstrate His human nature – living just like us -laughing, has neighbors, time with His mother,
- Agony in the Garden: Jesus is **God Incarnate**. Incarnate means "**en-fleshed**"; God took on **real** and **complete** human nature, not just human **appearance**, not a mask or costume
- Hard evidence: No serious historian doubts existence of Jesus; Bible is **greatest** and **most carefully examined** book in human history
- Earliest books of Bible written less than 20 yrs. after Jesus' death and resurrection; Paul's letters had basic story of Jesus' passion and resurrection; corroborates what is in the Gospels which had not been written yet (Paul's letters to Romans, Galatians, Thessalonians, Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Ephesians, Acts) **Noted over 500 witnesses to the risen Christ**
- Jesus knew He was going to die: Divine nature – knew everything, all that God knew, knew He was going to die; Human nature – He experienced everything as we do – except sin; He was hungry, He was thirsty, He felt pain
- Jesus' actually sweat blood. Medical condition called *hematidrosis*; medical science records ordinary people who this has happened during extreme mental, emotional and physical stress
- Why did Jesus ask for cup to be passed? Jesus' human nature would naturally desire to avoid pain and death
- Why did God require Jesus to take upon Himself such tremendous physical and emotional suffering? Pg 10
- 5<sup>th</sup> figure in garden is satan; other gospels only describe temptation in the desert, only in Luke's gospel do we see the satan return as promised
- **Why did Jesus have to die? Death is a consequence of our sins – we turn our backs on God who is the source of life. Authentic, agape love involves sacrifice which runs totally counter to human expectations; Love involves self-giving, the sacrificing of our selfish desires for the good of another. It is through our actions that we prove our love. To understand suffering for love is to understand God. To understand God is to understand life...authentic love.**  
Just as the blood of the lamb on the doorpost the night the angel of death *passed over* God's marked people, so the shedding of His blood on another piece of wood allows pass over *death passes over, be saved from death* and now have eternal life (p15)
- Movie is bloody but just as blood is shed by soldiers who give their lives for their country and mothers who shed their blood when giving birth, love involves shedding blood
- **NOTE:** Snake in the garden – NOT mentioned in the Bible but *artistic license* for dramatic effect but IS rooted in Scripture in Genesis, the *seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent*- Jesus is the new Adam and will not listen to the serpent
- Baby carried around by satan
- Peter warming himself by fire; not portrayed this way in movie to fully flesh out the *emotion* of the unfolding drama of Peter, leader of the disciples, future head of the Church
- Peter falling at the feet of Mary crying out **I have denied Him, Mother!** – according to Catholic teaching that is acceptable to appeal to Jesus' mother when you have offended God.- the Queen Mother; Mediatrix
- **Scene:** Mary enters a place and finds Jesus chained to the railing below the stone pavement- portrayal of the eternal connection between Jesus and His mother, Jesus the Messiah and fulfillment of the prophecy and Mary who abandoned herself to God's will from Jesus' birth to death are permanently connected
- Demon children surround Jesus – pg 49

- **Scourging:** Satan holds baby demon and swirls around the action to incite the torturers to maximum violence and brutality. **This was the devil's moment, in which he thought he was winning the battle with God**
- **Scourging:** brutal and long, it is a powerful reality we should meditate on

What happened to Jim Caviezel while filming Passion of the Christ?

Caviezel portrayed Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's 2004 film *The Passion of the Christ*. During filming, he was **struck by lightning, accidentally scourged, had his shoulder dislocated, and suffered from pneumonia and hypothermia.**

What is the purpose of the appearance of the devil in the scenes of Passion of Christ?

Satan is very effectively portrayed as an androgynous, cloaked figure who drifts through certain scenes **in an attempt to convince Christ to surrender His mission** (during His anxiety in Gethsemane, His whipping, etc.). The Devil also looks on as Judas slowly succumbs to the temptation of suicide.

*(Bizarre Things That Happened On The Set Of The Passion Of The Christ)* BY ADAM JAMES

- Mel Gibson's biblical drama film *The Passion of the Christ* both divided and shocked audiences nationwide after its Ash Wednesday release in 2004. Primarily following the final hours of Jesus' life, the film was praised for its cinematography and performances, but criticized for its graphic violence and alleged antisemitic undertones. Regardless, it received three Academy Award nominations and remains the highest-grossing R-rated film of all time.

### **Most Pause-Worthy Jason Statham Movie Moments**

The Lead – Jim Caviezel

- On screen, *The Passion of the Christ* has its fair share of bizarre moments. (Is there really a part of the Bible in which Satan carries around a Little Person?) And as surreal as things can get during the movie itself, there were also quite a few bizarre happenings behind the scenes — some of which you might not even believe.
- According to one study, lightning strikes roughly 240,000 people per year. It's fairly rare, in other words — but in 2003, it happened three times on the set of *The Passion of the Christ*.
- Lead actor Jim Caviezel has claimed he was "lit up like a Christmas tree" while filming the Sermon on the Mount sequence of the film. "I knew it was going to hit me about four seconds before it happened," the actor told *The 700 Club*. "I thought, 'I'm going to get hit.' And when it happened, I saw the extras grab the ground."
- Caviezel said that after the strike, fire was coming out of his head and his body was illuminated — though the cameras hadn't yet finished panning over to his position. "By the time the cameras got to me," Caviezel recalled, "I hear Mel screaming out, 'What the heck happened to his hair?' I looked like I went to see Don King's hair stylist."
- Caviezel wasn't the only person on the set of *The Passion* to get struck by lightning.
- "Five minutes after I got hit," Caviezel explained, "Jon Mikalini, an assistant, walks over and says 'Are you okay?' And then he got hit. The difference was that they saw the bolt come down and hit Jon ... All I felt was this giant tremendous slap on my ears and a few seconds of a pink, red static in front of my eyes."
- Because you can't exactly flay the skin off your star in real life, a hidden whipping post was set up behind Caviezel while filming *The Passion of the Christ's* notoriously bloody scourging scene. The problem was, one of the actors doing the flogging didn't have the best aim when swinging overhead. "[His lash] just extended over the board and hit me with such a velocity that I couldn't breathe," Caviezel recalled to *Today*. "It's like getting the wind knocked out of you. The sting is so horrific that you can't get air."
- Unsurprisingly, Caviezel wasn't happy. "I turned around and looked at the guy, and I tell you, I may be playing Jesus, but I felt like Satan at that moment ... a couple of expletives came out of my mouth." Some good that did. Moments later, Caviezel accidentally received another blow. Nobody ever said playing Our Lord and Savior would be easy.
- Not only did Caviezel get struck by lightning and endure a couple misplaced lashes, he also dislocated his shoulder while carrying the film's massive crucifix. According to the cross-bearer

himself, the wooden construction weighed 150 pounds. *"It feels like 600 pounds as the day goes on,"* Caviezel told **Fox News**.

- Caviezel's shoulder popping out of place was just the start of his misery. *"Later they stick you up on a cross in 25-degree temperatures with 30-knot winds,"* Caviezel explained. Filming almost naked in such frigid conditions nearly gave the actor hypothermia and succeeded in giving him a lung infection and pneumonia.

#### Holy mother of migraines

- Just to add the icing on Caviezel's painful cake, the actor regularly suffered severe migraines from working day in and day out with one eye **cosmetically swollen shut**.
- According to Today, Caviezel's **alarm went off at 2AM in order** to provide enough time for the film's makeup artists to cover him in cosmetic bruises, cuts, lashes, gashes, and copious amounts of fake blood. They also had to arrange his crown of thorns, and seal one eye shut — which wreaked havoc on his depth perception. *"You are going to work every day with only one eye functioning,"* he told Fox News, *"which gives you headaches."*

#### A dramatic conversion

- Filming *The Passion of the Christ* had a pretty profound effect on many people involved in the production, and the film's set became the **site of some religious conversions**. Legionary Father John Bartunek told **National Catholic Register**, *"Everyone felt comfortable talking about issues of faith. Being a priest in the midst of that, I was like a lightning rod for spiritual conversations."*
- One actor who converted from being a self-proclaimed **"angry atheist"** was Luca Lionello, the **actor who plays Judas**. Near the end of production, Lionello accepted the film's title character as his lord and savior. *"He asked for confession,"* Bartunek explained. *"Apparently he had been completely transformed by the experience. He baptized his children, sanctified his marriage and came back to the Church."*

#### A dramatic conversion, part 2

- Not only did the film have a profound effect on the atheist actor who played Judas, it affected a cast member **of the Islamic faith**. *"One of the guys working on the film was a Muslim,"* Caviezel told **The 700 Club**. *"He was one of the guards who beat me, and he converted. He had a real big experience there, you know?"*
- Naturally, not everyone who worked on the set of *The Passion of the Christ* experienced a religious epiphany — but most people were affected in one way or another. *"All the actors that worked on this film ... it will stay with them the rest of their lives,"* Caviezel claimed. *"People will always come up to them, people will always ask them about the movie they were in, it will always be with them."*

**During the filming of *The Passion of the Christ*, Caviezel had to endure accidental lashings, a dislocated shoulder, pneumonia, a lung infection, persistent migraines, and getting struck by lightning — but the bad luck didn't end there. Once filming wrapped and the movie made millions worldwide, the actor's career all but died.**

In addition to calling Mel Gibson *"a horrible sinner,"* Caviezel has claimed he's been **blackballed by Hollywood for playing Jesus**. In fact, he's recalled Gibson trying to talk him out of it only moments after offering him the controversial role. *"He said, 'You'll never work in this town again,'"* Caviezel told a congregation at First **Baptist Church of Orlando**. *"I told him, 'We all have to embrace our crosses' ... We have to give up our names, our reputations, our lives to speak the truth."*

Still, Caviezel's career might be due for a resurrection, with the actor set to reprise his most famous role in Gibson's upcoming sequel to *The Passion*. *"I won't tell you how he's going to go about it,"* Caviezel told USA Today. *"But I'll tell you this much, the film he's going to do is going to be the biggest film in history. It's that good."* With plenty of bizarre happenings taking place on the set of the original, we can only imagine what's in store for the sequel — although we're definitely hoping for fewer lightning strikes.