



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Isn't Santa Claus Series, Lesson 29

Lesson Title: Meet Jesus, He Deals With Our Sin

Take Home Point: Meet Jesus, he deals with our sin.

Warm-Up:

A man dies and goes to heaven. At the pearly gates, St. Peter says, "You need 100 points to get into heaven. Tell me all the good things you've done, and I will give you points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in." "Okay," the man says. "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her." "Great! That's worth three points!" St. Peter says. "Three points?" he says. "I also attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service." "Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point." "One point? Well, I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans." "Fantastic! That's good for two more points!" St. Peter says. "TWO POINTS!!" the man cries. "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!" "Come on in!" replies St. Peter.

Read: Romans 3:23-25 and 2 Corinthians 5:21

Observation (What happened?):

By what means are we justified?

What did God do to his Son Jesus on our behalf?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God?

Why do you think God justifies us freely by his grace?

Insight:

Some people have a tendency to hold on to their sin and guilt even after confessing it to God and knowing it is washed away in the blood of Jesus. It is as if the sacrifice of atonement Paul speaks of is not enough, that somehow we need to be part of the redemptive act. It reminds me of this story. Picture yourself in a courtroom. The judge is about to announce your penalty, and it is expected to be a very large fine. He clears his throat and says, "I sentence you to a fine of \$10 million dollars. However, your fine has already been paid by someone else. Your debt to society has been satisfied. You are free to go; no further action on your part is required. Court dismissed." How would you react? Would you say, "That's great! But it seems too good to be true. I need to do something. Even though it's already paid, I want to pay part of it, too." Sounds kind of silly, doesn't it? It is silly. Jesus did it because we couldn't. Believe it, accept it, and rejoice in God's limitless grace.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does it mean to you to "become the righteousness of God?"

Thank God right now for the redemption he provides completely by his grace.