

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice and... Series, Lesson 47

Lesson Title: Get Life—Now and Forever

Take Home Point: Jesus gave us his life so we can have life with God now and forever.

Warm-Up:

Imagine I go to a luxury car dealership to buy a new automobile. I know which model I want to buy and its price. The salesman greets me and I tell him that I want a particular model with all the luxury options available. He shows it to me and we chat about what a wonderful car it is and how much I will enjoy it. Eventually he asks me what I am willing to pay. "Pay?!?", I reply. "I don't think I should have to pay anything! I am a solid citizen and have worked hard all my life. I deserve to be given this car without any cost at all! You owe it to me!" Unless I or someone else pays for that auto, how likely do you think it is that I will get to experience its marvelous features?

Read Mark 15:20-39

Observation (What happened?):

What was the charge against Jesus that was posted on his cross?

What did the mockers say while Jesus hung on the cross?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Could Jesus have come down from the cross if he wanted?

Why did he stay on the cross?

Insight:

Many years ago a church-going friend of mine said, "I'm uncomfortable with the cross. It's so bloody and gruesome. I don't understand why it was necessary for God to do that to save us." I was not surprised by his words. As a culture, both inside and outside the church, we've lost sight of the seriousness of sin and its effects. Sin destroys the soul over time no matter what a person's outer appearance, and with the soul's deterioration to eternal ruin comes the destruction of the mind and body as well. Its wages are death. The only way to redeem is to pay the wages. Jesus did that as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. As Thomas Kelly wrote:

"Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great;
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God."

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are your thoughts about Jesus dying on the cross for you and me? Specifically, how have you responded to his sacrifice for you?

Think of one person you know who needs to hear that Jesus died for him or her. Pray for that person, and pray for an opportunity to share the good news.