

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 47

Lesson Title: Meet the One Who Died for You

Take Home Point: Jesus died for you.

Warm-Up:

Picture yourself in a courtroom. The defendant has been declared guilty, and now the judge is about to announce a penalty, which is expected to be a very large fine. The room is silent. The judge 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 do you think the offender would react? What if he responded with, "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? More likely he would be thrilled to be free of his debt and would want to find and thank the one who took his punishment.

Read: Matthew 26:77-27:54; Mark 15:1-39; Luke 23:1-48; John 18:28-19:37; John 3:16

Observation (What happened?):

How did the crowd respond to Jesus on the cross?

What did Jesus ask his Father to do for those who put him on the cross?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, "It is finished!"

According to John 3:16, who did Jesus die for? Who is not included?

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. The only way we can have peace with God is for the mortal wages of sin to be paid. Jesus did that as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. He took our punishment in our place. 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?):

Think of one way you can show Jesus this week how thankful you are for his forgiveness.

Pray for the children in your small group to believe that Jesus took their punishment and they can be forgiven.

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