

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Signs on Believers' Highway, Lesson 47

Lesson Title: Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion

Take Home Point: Jesus is the king who died for me.

Warm-Up:

In his book *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan, the main character Christian carries a heavy load on his back. He has been reading a Book that warns him of sin and its consequences, and the more he reads the more his burden weighs him down. His burden is recognized sin, and he does not know how to get rid of it. The more Christian reads his Book, the more the weight of his sin presses him down. Then he meets a man named Evangelist who tells him how to be rid of the burden. "Follow this path to the cross of Jesus Christ." When he reaches the cross, his burden comes loose from his shoulders and rolls into a nearby open grave, never to be seen or felt again. Christian is surprised, for he does nothing to remove the burden; it comes off his back at the sight of the cross.

Read: John 18:19 – 19:30

Observation (What happened?):

Did Pontius Pilate want to have Jesus executed?

How many men tried Jesus during the night?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus did not directly answer any of Pilate's questions?

What did Jesus mean when he said, "It is finished." just before he died?

Insight:

What was it that bothered the Jewish leaders so about Jesus? John 19:7 tells us: "*The Jews insisted, 'We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.'*" (NIV) As early as John 8:58, Jesus was declaring himself to be God. That was not the only time he equated himself with his Father, but the significance of using God's personal name (*I AM*) as his own was not lost on his listeners. John 10:33 gives their reaction later that day. They were so fixed on their own idea of who and how God should be and how he would present himself to them that they missed his presence right there. And just as it was a stumbling block to the Jews then, so today people rebel at the idea that Jesus is God. How many cults or variants of Christianity have sprouted because someone refused to believe what Jesus said about himself? How many souls are lost forever because they or someone who teaches them rejects these words? This is the heart of the Good News. Jesus is our only rescuer because only he as the God/man could pay the penalty for the sin of all. And unless he was who he said he was, he is no more worth following than any one else who claims to have the way to heaven.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Take a moment to thank Jesus that he was willing to die in your place so you can live forever.

Pray for the children in your small group to believe in the rescue Jesus provides.

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