

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Jesus Is the King Series, Lesson 47

Lesson Title: The King of Sacrifice

Take Home Point: Jesus traded places with us to win us eternal life.

Warm-Up:

On September 11, 2001, hundreds and probably thousands of people were saved by the sacrificial actions of police and firefighters who helped them escape from the World Trade Center prior to the towers' collapse. Many lost their lives while saving others. Imagine if words like these had been said to those professionals: "Who are you to say I need rescuing!" or "Don't tell me how to get out! I can find my own way!" or "I need to get a little more of my work done, then I will come." Sounds silly and even kind of offensive, doesn't it? Those men and women risked their own lives to free others from a terrible end, and so deserve the gratitude of those they rescued.

Read: Matthew 27:11-50

Observation (What happened?):

Read Mark 15:1-47, Luke 23:1-49, and John 18:28-19:42. Notice the various details included by each gospel writer, especially the seven phrases spoken by Jesus on the cross.

What happened in Matthew 27:51?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What did Jesus mean when he said, "It is finished!" in John 19:30?

Why do you think it was important to mention the tearing of the curtain? (Read Hebrews 10:19-22 for a hint.)

Insight:

Some say Jesus didn't die on the cross—that he was in a coma when he was buried, or he only seemed dead to the Romans and the coolness of the tomb revived him. And followers of Jesus have rightly countered those ideas. The Romans crucified to the death all the time, so when the soldiers said he was dead, he was dead. But beyond depending on Roman thoroughness, if Jesus didn't die, THE CROSS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! The payment for sin is death (Romans 6:23), so if Jesus didn't die, he didn't take our place and we can't be forgiven by God! When he said, "It is finished," that's exactly what he meant! Our sin debt was finished, paid in full, by his death.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of one person in your life who needs to hear the good news of forgiveness offered by Christ's sacrificial death. Pray for God to give you the right words and timing to talk to that person.

Thank God every day this week for Jesus trading places with you in taking your punishment for your sins. Focus on his forgiveness, not your sins.