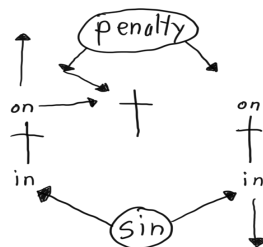


- C. The story of the two thieves on the crosses next to Jesus is a great way to explain the gospel.



Life Group Questions

1. What stood out to you in this message? What did you learn you didn't know?
2. In the past, what came to mind when you saw a cross? What comes to mind now?
3. Could Jesus have come down from the cross? What kept him on the cross? (See 1 John 4:10) How does that change the way you think about Jesus and how we should live for Him?
4. Simon of Cyrene unexpectedly found himself helping Jesus carry his cross. That inconvenience led to more than meeting Jesus. It led to him becoming a follower of Jesus. Simon shared Jesus with his children. They later became leaders in the early church. (See Romans 16:13) What unexpected turn of events have taken place in your life that God used to either introduce you to Jesus or to mature you in Jesus? Since God often uses unplanned changes in our schedule as part of his plan to grow his kingdom, how should that change the way we react to schedule changes and inconveniences in everyday life?
5. Pilate refused to remove the plaque above Jesus' head that identified him as the king of the Jews. How was Jesus acting as a true king for His people by dying on a cross instead of sitting on a throne? What does this teach us about Jesus? What does this teach us about Christ-like leadership in everyday life? (See Philippians 2:1-8)
6. Read Mark 15:29-32. In these verses, we learn how Jesus was mocked by the public, the priests, and the criminals next to Him. What was ironic about what they accused Him of not being able to accomplish? In what ways do we mock Jesus in our lives? Take time to pray and thank Jesus for absorbing the mocking, and staying on the cross to save the people that didn't treat Him with the honor He deserves, people like you and me.
7. Pastor Kurt showed how to share the gospel using a coffee table napkin and the story of the two thieves. Practice sharing the gospel with the story of the two thieves in your Life Group. If we can't share it in Life Group, we won't we able to share it in real life.

MARK THE KING AND THE CROSS

Mark 15:21-32 – The Crucifixion

November 1, 2020

1. Jesus was crucified.

And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. Mark 15:21 (ESV)

Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. Romans 16:13 (ESV)

And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). Mark 15:22 (ESV)

"Whenever we crucify the guilty, the most crowded roads are chosen where the most people can see and be moved by this fear. For penalties relate not so much to retribution as to their exemplary effect." - Quintillian

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. Mark 15:23 (ESV)

They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. Matthew 27:34 (ESV)

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine Luke 23:36 (ESV)

They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. Psalm 69:21 (ESV)

And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. Mark 15:24 (ESV)

"The very word 'cross' should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, and his ears . . . the mere mention of them, that is unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man" (Cicero, Defense, 5, 16)

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:16–18 (ESV)

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

...so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn." Zechariah 12:10 (ESV)

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:8 (ESV)

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things, John 19:23–24 (ESV)

And it was the third hour when they crucified him. Mark 15:25 (ESV)

And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." Mark 15:26 (ESV)

And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. Mark 15:27 (ESV)

...because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12 (ESV)

2. Jesus was mocked.

1. Jesus was mocked by the public.

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" Mark 15:29–30 (ESV)

2. Jesus was mocked by the priests.

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."... Mark 15:31–32 (ESV)

3. Jesus was mocked by the criminals next to him.

...Those who were crucified with him also reviled him. Mark 15:32 (ESV)

3. What lessons can I learn?

A. The mocking and death of Jesus was not a mistake in history. It was the center of God's good plan for all of history.

B. No matter how hard I have mocked Jesus and rebelled against Him, He loves me. He died for me. He offers to save me.

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:39–43 (ESV)