

It is finished!

Lesson for Sunday, April 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

1. Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
2. Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God’s image
3. Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all
4. Genesis 3:15 – God’s promise of redemption
5. Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham
6. Genesis 49:10 – Judah’s Royal Seed
7. Exodus 12:23 – The Passover Lamb
8. 2 Samuel 7:13 – The Line of David
9. Isaiah 53:5 – The Suffering Servant
10. Deuteronomy 7:9 – God is true to His Word
11. Matthew 1:16 – The time is fulfilled
12. Today we add: John 19:30 – It is finished!
 - The promise that God made in Genesis 3:15 has finally arrived!
 - The most significant events in history happened at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and then His resurrection.
 - We are saved by His death; because He died, we live.
 - Today we are going to review the major events that happened at the cross.

BIBLE STUDY:

TEXT: John 19

1. Jesus the Victor (vs. 16-17)
 - a. Notice the sequence of events in these verses.
 - b. Jesus had been condemned and Pilate delivered Him to the soldiers for crucifixion (16a).
 - c. The soldiers took and led Jesus away (16b).
 - d. It was Jesus, however, who bore the cross and “went forth” (vs. 17).
 - e. Jesus Christ was the *majestic victor*, not the victim. He was bearing the cross and going forth for a specific purpose – to save mankind from their sins. (See also John 10:11 & 15).
2. Jesus the Preeminent Sacrifice (vs. 18)
 - a. The Bible teaches that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. What a picture to behold! The only perfect Man to ever walk the earth is put to death with deserving criminals.
 - b. It is a picture of the preeminence of His sacrifice. He was surrounded by a world of unjust men, yet He was dying for them (1 Peter 3:18).
 - c. Jesus was being counted among the worst of sinners – sinners who deserved death (2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. Jesus the Proclaimed King (vs. 19-22)
 - a. The third event of the cross was Pilate writing the title on the cross. Note three simple facts:
 - b. First, the people read the title but were indifferent to it. It had no effect upon them. There was no mass movement of sorrow and repentance, no final acceptance of Him.
 - c. The religionists objected to the title. However, they did not ask that it be removed. They asked that the wording be changed to read “*He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’*” Their unbelief was foul and obstinate.
 - d. Jesus claimed to be “the King of the Jews,” the promised Messiah. The title “King of the Jews” was written in the three great languages of the world at that time. This providentially symbolized His rightful rule as King of the universe.
4. Jesus the High Priest, the Mediator (vs. 23-24)
 - a. The fourth event of the cross was the soldiers gambling for His clothes. Note...

- b. The insensitive, worldly-minded men were void of compassion. Jesus' mother Mary was standing by the cross, yet the soldiers showed no compassion whatsoever in sharing His belongings with her (see Psalm 22:28).
 - c. The seamless coat was one piece of cloth, woven from the top to the bottom. The coat or robe was identical to the robe of the High Priest.
 - d. It symbolized Christ, the *Mediator*, the Pontifex, which in Latin means the bridge-builder between God and man.
 - e. The event fulfilled Scripture (Psalm 22:18). God was in charge of the cross, for it was the fulfillment of His purpose, of His great plan of salvation for man.
5. Jesus the Responsible Son of Man (vs. 25-27)
- a. The fifth event of the cross was Jesus' great love for His mother. There are two touching scenes here.
 - b. First, notice the women at the cross. They were there at great risk.
 - i. Jesus was a revolutionary in the eyes of Rome and a heretic in the eyes of the religionists. Any supporter of Jesus who stood at the cross ran the risk of ridicule and arrest.
 - ii. Nevertheless, the women stood there. Why? They loved Him. There is no other explanation: they simply loved Him. He had done so much for them that they were willing to stand by Him no matter the cost.
 - c. Second, notice Jesus's care of His mother. His thoughts were on others, not on Himself. Even in death, His mind and being were set on taking care of others. In the last moments of His life upon earth, He made arrangements for her care.
6. Jesus the Triumphant Messiah (vs. 28-30)
- a. The last words of Jesus on the Cross were, "It is finished." Note...
 - b. The Greek word, *tetelestai*, is the should of victorious purpose! Jesus had completed His work, His mission, and His task.
 - c. Jesus was not proclaiming the cry of a defeated martyr; He was proclaiming the cry of a victorious conqueror!
 - d. There is a powerful lesson and reminder in the phrase, "gave up the ghost."
 - i. It means that Jesus gave up His Spirit.
 - ii. It must always be remembered that Jesus died willingly!
 - iii. Jesus willingly came to this moment of yielding and giving up His Spirit unto death.

SUMMARY/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Only God could take the darkest day in history and turn it into the greatest hope for all of mankind!
- ⇒ Don't forget – Jesus died for the sins of the world (that's everybody)! But that includes you (that's personal).
- ⇒ Take time to review the Gospel with your class...
 - Emphasize why Jesus had to die (our sin).
 - Tie this in to pervious lessons – God's promise in Genesis 3:15, the Passover Lamb in Exodus 12 and the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53.