

25 October

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Seeing Jesus' death by crucifixion

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the reason why Jesus Christ died on the cross?
2. How did Jesus die? (**Death by crucifixion - see John 19:23a; when the soldiers had crucified Him.**)
3. According to Deuteronomy 21:23; what is someone called who is hung on a tree? (**Cursed by God.**)
4. Why did Jesus die? (**Christ died for our sins - see 1 Corinthians 15:3.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. How was Jesus different from the two men who were crucified next to Him? (**Jesus was sinless – see John 8:46 and Hebrews 4:15.**)
6. What does Genesis 2:16 – 17 and Romans 6:23; tell us about the wages and consequences of sin? (**Sin leads to death.**)
7. How is Jesus' death on the cross Good News? (**Jesus died not for His sin, but as a substitute in our place for our sin - 2 Cor.5:21; 1 Cor.15:3**)
8. How can we know Jesus defeated sin once and for all? (**Because death could not hold Him, because Jesus was without sin – see 1 Corinthians 15:55 – 57.**)

 Let's apply this

9. We can respond in three ways:
 1. Our identity is marked by the sins we have committed. (**shame and guilt.**)
 2. Or the sins that have been committed against us. (**anger and revenge.**)
 3. Or the finished work of Jesus on the cross who takes away sin, the result being we can be new creations in Christ, that all things become new. (**forgiven and free.**)

Prayer: Lord Jesus we ask that you give us faith to believe. That we would walk away from religion where we try to be good so you would love us. May we walk away from condemnation, shame and guilt. May we walk in the light and fellowship in the light. Amen.

SUMMARY:

- **What did Jesus' death accomplish on the cross?**

In John 12; Jesus himself speaking of the cross and his death says; "It was for this very reason that I came to this hour." Jesus said, "All of my life, ministry, trials, temptations and teachings all points to this moment that I have come to earth as God for this mission of dying upon a cross."

The Bible tells us regarding Jesus, it simply says, "They took Jesus, and had him scourged," a very simple little statement. **Isaiah 52:14**, says, "There were many that were appalled at him," or had we seen the scourged, crucified Jesus we would have been appalled at him." His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness."

There are two reasons the Bible talks about blood so much. One, blood indicates death, which is what sin causes. Secondly, we are horrified at the sight of blood. It disgusts us. God connects blood and sin so closely because He is illustrating for us that as sickened as we are by blood, is equally how sickened He is by sin.

Isaiah prophesied many years before Jesus birth that He would die with criminals. That he would be crucified with the guilty and as Isaiah promised Jesus was crucified with two guilty thieves, two guilty sinners, "One on his left and one on his right." The reason why Jesus is remembered and celebrated is that Jesus was different than those two guilty men. He was a man who was guiltless. He is God, who became man. Jesus was and is superior and different from all other men who were crucified.

How is the cross Good News?

Isaiah 53:5 - "He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our sins"
Romans 4:25 - "[He] was delivered up for our trespasses..."
Romans 5:8 - "Christ died for us." and 1 Corinthians 15:3 - "Christ died for our sins..."
1 Peter 3:18 - "Christ...suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous."

What 9 things did Jesus accomplish for us on the cross?

1. Jesus defeated death and the demonic so you could live free - Colossians 2:13-15.
2. Jesus paid the ultimate price for your debt to God - 1 Peter 1:18 - 19.
3. Jesus was cursed so you could be blessed - Galatians 3:13.
4. Jesus became unrighteous so you could become righteous - 2 Corinthians 5:21.
5. Jesus endured God's wrath so you could experience God's grace - Romans 5:9.
6. Jesus was rejected by the Father so you could be reconciled to the Father - Romans 5:10 – 11.
7. Jesus was shamed so that you could be unashamed - Hebrews 12:1 - 2.
8. Jesus became unclean to make you clean - 1 John 1:7 – 9.
9. Jesus was hated so you could be loved - Romans 5:8.

How is Jesus' cross our hope in death? (See John 11:25-26)