

Christ Crucified

Lesson 21

John 19:17-42

Opener

Ask: Have you ever felt completely abandoned by someone you loved very much?

Maybe....your husband left you
your mom or dad left the family

Today we are going to read about the worst moment of Jesus' life. We are going to read about His crucifixion and the moment when God abandoned Him.

Crucifixion was a very cruel death reserved for criminals. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** says, **“If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole, you must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God’s curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.”** And **Galatians 3:13** says, **“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’”**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God who had never sinned, was condemned to death, even death on a cross... the death of a criminal. They accused Him of blasphemy that to the Jews was a crime that deserved death. Jesus told them that HE was the Son of God, God who could forgive their sins. Jesus had told them that He was the Messiah, the Savior. Those that did not believe in Him or what He told them, this was a lie. No one had the right to say that they were God except God Himself. And they did not believe that Jesus was God. The problem, besides what Jesus said, were His actions. Many times they tried to catch Jesus doing something wrong....something to give them the proof that they wanted to be able to accuse Jesus. But they could not find anything wrong in Jesus. Every trick, every question, every action that the Jews did to try and trap Jesus failed. Jesus was perfect.

Read John 19:17-22

Scripture

They put Jesus on the cross between two criminals. Then Pilate wrote a sign that named Jesus' crime. Ususally, the crime was posted above the head of the criminal on the cross so that everyone could see what he had done. In Jesus' case, is crime was that they said He was the King of the Jews, the Messiah. The Jews didn't want Pilate to say that Jesus was the King of the Jews, on that He thought He was the King of the Jews.

The books of Matthew and Mark in the Bible tell us what happened to Jesus before he died. We are going to read the account in Mark.

Mark 15:33-39

The anguish and pain that Jesus suffered in His body did not even compare with what happened spiritually. Verse 34 tells us that God forsook Jesus. He abandoned Him. Jesus had never been separated from God. Yes, He came here, but He was one with God. God was still with Jesus while He was here on the earth. For the first and only time in His life, Jesus was separated from God. God was not with Him. And this spiritual pain caused Him to cry out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Ask: Why did God abandon Jesus?

Discussion

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

The King James Version says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

To be reconciled with God, we had to have an acceptable sacrifice for our sin. The sacrifices that the people of the Old Testament offered were never enough to take away sin once and for all. In John 1:29, John says this about Jesus, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Jesus was our Lamb. He was our sacrifice. He was crucified to be able to take away our sins.

But there is still a price for sin. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) To be reconciled, to be able to stand before God pure and clean, someone had to take away our sins because the one who dies in sin will be separated from God for all of eternity. Jesus did this. That means that God made Him to be sin. The sin didn’t disappear, It still existed and still had consequences. But instead of us remaining guilty for the sin we committed, God put our sin on Jesus.

God loves us. God wants to be with us, but He does not accept our sin. So when we stay sinful without the forgiveness of God, we are unacceptable. When Jesus died on the cross for our sin, that means that God treated Him as a sinner. At that moment Jesus was unacceptable to God. For this reason God abandoned Him.

And now, when we put our faith and trust in Jesus who is no longer dead but alive, we can be reconciled to God. We can stand before God, a sinner, but a sinner who has received forgiveness and grace from a God who gave his life for us.

Application

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Jesus paid the price - He took the punishment for our own sin. But to be forgiven we need to be aware that we are sinners and confess to Jesus that He is the one who died for us. We need to invite Him to come into our lives and ask Him for forgiveness.

Ask: Have you invited Jesus to come into your life?

Have you received forgiveness for you sins?

What is stopping you from accepting Jesus today and receiving salvation that only comes from a relationship with our Savior?