

His Story, My Story - Session 6

Jesus is Crucified (Mark 15:1-39)

Sharing exercise

We all have hard times, and difficult periods in our lives. Some of us go through terrible experiences. Sometimes, good things come out of our hard times. So that even though the experience was bad, we are thankful for the good thing that came to us. Can you briefly share about one experience like that for you?

First time

This story comes from Mark's Gospel.

They came for him at night, guided by Judas his disciple. Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, outside Jerusalem. Judas had told the soldiers, 'The one I will kiss—he is the one you want.' He betrayed Jesus with that kiss. Then the soldiers took Jesus away.

Early the next morning, the chief priests and others in the ruling elite met to decide what to do. They wanted Jesus dead. The high priest, Caiaphas, had said: 'It is better that one man dies for the people than our whole nation gets destroyed by the Romans.'

Legally they could not crucify Jesus. But the Romans could. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea.

So they said, 'We have to send him to Pilate.'

Of course, they needed a charge against Jesus, so to start with, they told Pilate: 'He tells people he is the King of the Jews.' They figured Pilate would crush anybody who tried to king.

Pilate asked Jesus: 'Are you the King of the Jews?' 'If you say so,' was all Jesus said.

The chief priests came up with lots more accusations against Jesus. Pilate asked him, 'Aren't you going to answer anything?' Still, Jesus said nothing.

†

The chief priests manipulated and pressured Pilate until finally he gave in. He handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Roman soldiers took Jesus into the palace grounds. They called out the palace guard. 'Hey, come and watch this!' They dressed Jesus in a purple robe, like royalty wore. They made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head. Then they saluted him, yelling, 'Hey there, King of the Jews!' They beat him on the head with a cane, and spat on him, and went down on their knees to mock worship him.

When they got tired of their fun, they dressed him again in his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to be crucified. Jesus had to carry his heavy cross through the streets, a distance of around 600 metres. A man named Simon from Cyrene in North Africa was just then coming in from the country. And part-way, the soldiers ordered him to carry the cross.

Eventually they reached a place called Golgotha. (Golgotha means skull.) And they crucified him. It was about nine o'clock in the morning when the crucifixion took place.

They fastened a signboard to the cross above his head to announce his crime. It read in three languages so everybody could understand it. 'The King of the Jews.' They also crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left.

†

People jeered at Jesus as they walked by. They waved their heads as if they were upset. 'Ha! Look at you now!' they yelled at him. 'Sure, you can destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! If you're so wonderful, save yourself and come down from the cross.'

The chief priests and religious leaders were also standing around joking about Jesus. 'He's quite clever at saving others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself!'

About noon, darkness fell across the entire land. It lasted until three o'clock that afternoon.

Then Jesus called out in Aramaic with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' (*Sounds like elloee, elloee, lahma sabaktharny.*)

That means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?'

Some of the people standing there thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One man ran and got a sponge and filled it with sour wine and held it up to him on a stick.

When he had taken the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'

Then he bowed his head and died.

Second time

They came for him at night, guided by Judas his disciple.



Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, outside Jerusalem. Judas approached him and kissed him.



Then the soldiers took Jesus away.

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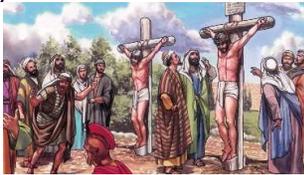
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Third time

OK this time you get to tell the story. Let's tell it together as a group.

Discussion

1. What do you like about this story? Why?
2. What questions might someone have about this story?

3. What can we learn about people from the characters in this story? (sometimes I ask, what choices did the person have? What do we learn about them from the choice they made?)
4. What can we learn about God/Jesus from this story?
5. This week, what do you want to change in your life because of this story? State your answer in the form "This week I want to..."
6. Who else needs to hear this story?



OURPeople houseofholiness.com
MEDIA
peterfarthing@outlook.com