

John 19:17-37

The Cross as Victory

Triumph Over Sin

Transition: After initially finding no grounds for charges against Jesus, Pilate had Him flogged and mocked to appease the crowd. Despite repeating that Jesus was innocent and seeking His release, Pilate ultimately yielded to pressure from the chief priests and the crowd, handing Jesus over to be crucified.

Tell the story: Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can. Don't stop and teach. Try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story: Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the recurring phrase in verses 24, 28, and 36? Why is this significant?
2. Why do you think Jesus would ask John to take care of His mother? Why not ask His brothers? What does this request show about Jesus' heart (verses 26-27)?
3. Why did John record the details of Jesus' death (verse 35)?

Fundamental:

On the cross, Jesus declared, "It is finished" (Greek: tetelestai)—a triumphant completion of His mission. He died as victor, not victim, accomplishing redemption and proving that He finished all things; they did not finish Him (John 19:28, 30).

1. The crucifixion is not just an historical fact but is an essential principle of being a disciple. In Galatians 2:20, 5:24, and 6:14 Paul talks about the role of Jesus' crucifixion in life. Discuss how you've experienced the work of the cross in your own life.
2. Read Romans 5:6-8, Romans 6:5-7, and Romans 8:31-39 and note the interrelationship between the cross, the love of God, and victorious living.
3. John 3:16 is one of the most familiar verses in the Bible. Compare it with 1 John 3:16 and notice how these two verses are similar. How does the crucifixion impact your relationship with others?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Meditate on Jesus' sacrificial love for you. Look for opportunities to live sacrificially, showing the love of Jesus in practical ways (Romans 12:1-2).
2. Please read John 20 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Remember that discipleship is all about the life of the cross. It is not optional. "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24).

Prayer: Pray that the Lord would change your perspective when facing difficult situations or dealing with difficult people to see these as opportunities to show the love of Christ and to experience the power of the victorious life of the cross.