

Jesus Arrested and Tried

Revenge is the nature of man

There were two people who were friends and ran a business together. One day the two argued regarding money they had put into the business. This problem grew and grew until they became each other's enemy. One of them had a terrible idea to trick the other. He made up a story that his partner had robbed him at gun point. He hired a false witness to say this and used many other terrible methods in order to put his partner in prison. It was many years later before the other man was able to get out of prison. Two or three months after he got out he took a gun and shot both his wicked old friend and his friend's wife. Then he ran away.

We all long for justice. When we are wronged we want to make it right. However, when we seek justice by doing what's wrong, we only make everything worse. Hatred, anger and revenge, these are the seeds of murder. Jesus taught that we are to turn from all of these. He said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also... Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise" (Luke 6:27-29,31).

These are powerful and amazing words. Did Jesus live such a life? How did He face injustice? What can we learn from His example?

1-The Patient Man Who Knew He Had to Die

Now let us look at one person who was captured because of hatred and envy and was judged without justice. What did He do in return? We have seen that the Bible says this man had

a lot of power. Did He use that power to destroy His enemies in revenge?

We have introduced the life and teachings of Jesus in the Bible through the previous lessons. We have seen that the teaching of Jesus made the people know the sins of wicked people, especially of the Jewish religious leaders. This led to the people hating the leaders and loving Jesus instead. Not only that, but Jesus helped people who needed Him that the leaders of religion had said were cursed. Jesus loved even wicked people and became closely acquainted with them through His love. It was this truth and compassion that made the Jewish religious leaders hate Jesus until through their jealousy they desired to destroy Him, and made a plan to capture Him in order to kill Him.

The Bible says that Jesus went into Jerusalem with a crowd of happy people around Him. The crowd was eagerly waiting to see what Jesus would do. On Thursday night Jesus was eating with His disciples and His face was sad. This made His followers wonder. He told them that He was nearing the time when the religious leaders would capture Him to hurt Him. Then He must receive many kinds of torture from them. Finally they would kill Him. But on the third day, He would rise again. The disciples were shocked because they did not understand what He was saying. They hoped that He would become the king. They believed that He was the sinless Son of God. If death is the result of sin, why would Jesus have to die since He didn't have any sin? The disciples did not understand, but Jesus knew. He had an important plan which fit those things He prophesied in order to lead to the salvation of the whole world. Jesus also said that one of His disciples would

turn Him over into the hands of the religious leaders who hated Jesus because of His teaching about their sins. What do you think? The disciples believed Jesus was the Son of God who had power, but Jesus spoke instead of His death.

2-Jesus Was Arrested

One disciple, named, Judas knew that Jesus was talking about him. For three years Judas had followed Jesus. He had been in charge of the money for the disciple's food and for gifts to the poor. Judas had really liked Jesus because of His power. He had often taken money for himself from the bag. This small sin had grown and grown in his heart and had made him very greedy. That night he had sneaked out to meet to the officials and promised to lead them to Jesus under the cover of night if they gave him thirty pieces of silver.

Now Jesus knew. But, would He cast Judas out from the disciples? Would He destroy him with His power? The Bible says that while Jesus was saddened by Judas' betrayal, He still loved him and wanted him to repent. Jesus used power from heaven to show Judas that He knew his secret plans. Jesus wanted Judas to realize his error, but Judas' heart was not changed.

The Bible says that Jesus told the disciples that they would all forsake Him that night. One of them, named Peter, boasted that he would never leave Jesus. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you" (Matthew 26:35). But Jesus warned him with a prediction: "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times" (Matthew 26:34).

With great sadness the eleven disciples followed Jesus away from the room out of the city to a garden called Gethse-

mane. Jesus had often gone there to pray. Knowing that He was about to be arrested and experience great pain, He prayed for strength. Because He was God, He knew clearly what was coming. Because He had become a man He felt the dread of the terrible death that was to come. Satan was there to force Jesus by temptation to live for Himself, not to help others.

Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup (death) be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). Jesus knew there was a great purpose behind His dying and so He chose not to run away or use His power to save Himself. He knew His death would bring salvation to His disciples and the world. His death would be victory, not defeat. And so He waited to receive this suffering because of His love for people.

Then He saw the light of torches and heard the clamor of the soldiers. Judas had led the soldiers and a whole mob of people to capture Jesus. The Bible in John 18:4-5a says, "Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, 'Who is it you want?' 'Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'I am he,' Jesus said." Upon hearing this, the soldiers tied His hands tightly. One of Jesus' disciples grabbed a sword and swung it at the men. He cut off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest. "Put your sword back in its place, Jesus said to him, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?" (Matthew 26:52-54). The soldiers had tied Jesus tight, but with divine power Jesus freed himself and reached out to touch Malchus' ear. Instantly his ear was healed! What a great sign of His love and power! What would the enemies do next to Jesus? The soldiers hesitated to touch or grab Him, but, finally seeing He did not attempt to escape,

they retied Him and led Him off to be tried. The disciples ran for their lives. They forgot their promises that they would never leave Him.

Let's think about the story above. Why was Jesus arrested? Many who have seen a picture of Jesus on the cross have assumed He must have done something wrong in order to be on a cross. But according to the story above, He was clearly arrested not because of His bad actions but because of the hatred and envy of others. He had no sin. His power in miracles showed Him to be the Son of God, but they would not believe.

Jesus knew in advance that He was about to be killed. Why did He not run from death? If you knew that someone was planning to kill you tonight at your house, would you go there or would you go somewhere else? Jesus did not run from death because He had a plan for all of us.

This story causes us to see that Jesus loved even His enemies. Have you ever had someone betray or deny you? If you have, how did you feel? Jesus was concerned for Judas even though he betrayed Him. Jesus was concerned for Peter who would not listen to His warning. Jesus even healed the ear of the soldier who came to capture Him. This is amazing love. No one who has ever done something like this!

3-Jesus Was Condemned

This story goes on to say that the soldiers and the religious leaders led Jesus to the house of the high priest by night. It was illegal, according to Roman law, to hold a court session at night. The leaders were afraid to try Jesus in the day because so many loved Him. As they tried Jesus, even though they paid people to make a false testimony, they could not find any fault

in Him because His life was perfect, truly having no sin. No matter how they beat Him, He remained calm. Even in His words there was no hint of anger.

Finally the high priest said to him, 'I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.' 'Yes, it is as you say,' Jesus replied. 'But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?' 'He is worthy of death,' they answered. Then they spit in his face, and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, 'Prophesy to us, Christ. Who hit you?' (Matthew 26:63b-68).

They were angry because He said He was the Son of God and would come in the clouds with glory to judge the world. As they saw His conviction and purity, they were terrified. They thought of His miracles. But their hatred grew so that they would not repent. They treated Him cruelly by spitting on Him and hitting Him and mocking Him. Although He had the power, Jesus did not retaliate. He did not destroy them. Would you be able to refrain? How could Jesus put up with such humiliation and torture? The Bible says it was because He knew His death would help the whole world. He persevered under suffering for all people including you.

Peter had sneaked in to watch the trial. He wanted to be close to Jesus but he did not want anyone to arrest him as they had Jesus. Someone recognized him and asked, "Weren't you with Jesus?" He denied it. Others recognized him and asked him two more times, but he still lied that he did not know Jesus to protect himself so they would not capture him. Then a rooster crowed. At that moment Jesus and Peter's eyes connected across the courtyard lit by the torches. Peter realized

he had denied Jesus three times before a rooster crowed just as Jesus predicted. Peter turned and crying in sorrow for his sin, ran from the courtyard filled with light into the dark. He knew clearly that he had caused Jesus to suffer as much as the soldiers who had hit Him.

That same night the Bible says that Judas felt terribly guilty for selling Jesus. He ran in to meet the officials and shouted, "I have betrayed an innocent man!" Judas threw the money they had paid him onto the ground. Judas, like Peter, was sorry for his betrayal, but he neither confessed nor changed his life the way Peter did. But instead Judas ran away and hanged himself (Matthew 27:4a,5).

The religious leaders had no political power to put Jesus to death so they took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate examined Him and could not find any fault in Him. In fact, "while Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him'" (Matthew 27:19). He should have listened to God's warning in his wife's dream, but he was afraid of the people. He did not want to lose his position and so would not free Jesus even though he saw He had no faults.

4-Because of the Purity of Jesus, He Can Forgive People's Sins

Through this story, do you see the righteousness of Jesus during all the injustice? Do you think He was truly the Son of God? Jesus loved even His enemies. Jesus did not respond with any hatred or retaliation. Jesus had the power to destroy them all, but He completely restrained Himself. He even loved them and longed for them to repent and believe in Him. The Bible teaches that God loves all people as His children

even when they sin. The hearts of people seems to be full of selfishness and even small sins can lead to destruction such as anger and revenge. It is like a small seed in nature that can grow into a large tree of many square meters. Don't we need to change our hearts by turning from such sin?

Peter thought he was brave enough to die for Jesus, but he sinned by denying Jesus three times. Many people are like Peter; they think they are sinless and good, but when times of trial and test come, they forsake all faithfulness. According to a Khmer saying, "Pure gold is not afraid of the fire." This means that if gold is pure it will stay shiny even in the fire. The Bible says that there is no one who is sinless (pure) who can stand under great difficulties (fire). The only hope is in asking. God can help us overcome these trials. Jesus was the pure gold but was not blackened. But in the story there were two others like pieces of gold that when tried became black. One could still be taken and used to make jewelry. But one other piece had to be thrown out. This happened when they captured Jesus. Judas (impure gold) sinned when he sold Jesus. Peter (impure gold) had sin from denying he knew Jesus. But Peter knew his sin and asked God to forgive him. He had a joyful life in which he was able to testify of Jesus with peace. But Judas who did not repent, received suffering and death.

As you have read about Jesus' amazing reactions to injustice, how has it made you feel? There is a great contrast between Jesus kind character and the way we often feel and act. So many times we are hurt by others and become angry and revengeful. God wants to help us change that. He has power to purify our hearts from just things. If we tell Him how we feel and confess to Him our sins, He will move into our hearts and clean away our anger. He can make our hearts like Jesus, with kindness, forgiveness and patience. Will you ask Him to do so today?

We are about to learn the most amazing story of all in the story of Jesus' death. That lesson will take us a big step further in experiencing true peace in this life and to give us hope beyond death.

You can begin to experience that now by praying,

“Father of mercy and kindness, open my heart to experience Your patience and love. Help me to forgive my enemies as Jesus forgave His. Help me to give kindness to those who show hatred. Show me the wrong thoughts in my heart and cleanse them with the fire of Your power. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Points to Remember

* The condemnation of the wicked is right, but the punishment of the righteous is unjust.

* In order to clean something that is filthy a person needs pure water and soap. In the same way, we need someone who is holy in order to cleanse us of evil as well.

* Overcome the wicked by doing good.

1 Peter 2:22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

Questions

1--Please underline the sentences that are correct.

Jesus did many bad things.

Jesus spoke of His death.

The disciples wanted Jesus to become a king.

The disciples understood clearly about Jesus having to die.

Jesus loved all people.

2--Please circle the letter of the sentences that are correct.

Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Jesus knew Judas had betrayed Jesus, but He still loved him.

Jesus touched the ear of the soldier and healed it.

They arrested Jesus because He had sin.

3--Please fill in the following blanks:

They arrested Jesus and took Him for trial at time.

Jesus was willing to sacrifice Himself in order to people.

Peter denied that he knew _____ ,
_____ times.

4--Please answer the following questions:

Do you think that you have sin in your heart?

against yourself?

against others?

against God?

5-- If this statement is true of your choice today, check it:

____I believe that Jesus was just and tried unfairly. I desire to have my heart clean and to live righteously. I will ask the Father of Life to help me.