Growing Character Together: Insights for Parents

Week 27 | Integrity

Jesus’ Trial and Crucifixion

BIG QUESTION

How does Jesus’ integrity give you power to remain true to God?

VIRTUE

INTEGRITY: God’s power for you to be true to Him and yourself

***HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***

Mark 15

The Sanhedrin was the supreme council of the Jews, made up of 71 influential elders, teachers of the law, Pharisees, and Sadducees, and led by the high priest. They had determined that Jesus should die for blasphemy for claiming to be the Son of God. The Sanhedrin, however, couldn’t carry out an execution because that power belonged to the Roman Empire which occupied and controlled Israel at the time. Consequently, the Sanhedrin turned Jesus over to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Rome didn’t care about Jewish laws and blasphemy. Pilate’s job was to keep peace and prevent riots. The Sanhedrin told Pilate that Jesus was stirring up trouble and trying to take Caesar’s place as king.

Jesus’ trial by the Sanhedrin and appearance before Pilate were unfair. There were no defense witnesses, and the witnesses against Jesus did not agree with each other. Jesus was not being tried for any actions He had committed; He was on trial for His identity. Jesus endured his trial with the confidence that everything was proceeding according to the Father’s plan.

After hours of mocking, beating, and whipping, Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9:00 am, the time of the morning sacrifice in the temple. At noon, an unnatural darkness came over the land for three hours. People who were crucified sometimes hung for two or three days before finally dying. At 3:00 pm, the time of the evening sacrifice, Jesus cried out with a loud voice and took His last breath. The ultimate and perfect sacrifice was complete. At the moment of Jesus’ death, and at a time when there would have been many witnesses to see it, God tore the heavy tapestry curtain in the Temple from top to bottom.

Scripture: <https://live.bible.is/bible/ENGNIV/MRK/15?audio_type=audio>

Experience It.

How did Jesus' enemies try to attack His identity (vs. 16-19)? If you were in a similar situation, how would this have affected your resolve? Explain.

*Hint: Jesus' enemies mocked Him and pretended to worship Him, calling Him king and putting a purple robe and crown of thorns on Him. It would have been difficult to stand there and take all this abuse. We often want to stand up for ourselves, fight back, or make others suffer for wronging us, but this gets in the way of us loving others.*

Internalize It.

Jesus was all-powerful and could have escaped crucifixion if He wanted to. Why did He allow this horrible thing to happen?

Hint: Jesus knew He had to suffer and die in order to save us from sin, and He willingly did so.

Activate It.

What was the motivation behind Jesus' actions? How often does that motivate *you*? Explain.

*Hint: Answers will vary. Love is what motivated Jesus. Love for God and others is what should motivate us. We sometimes are motivated by greed, selfishness, and other sinful thoughts and desires.*

CHRIST CONNECTION

All the purposes of God since creation had been moving toward this final event. Before God said, “Let there be light,” He knew that man would choose to sin. When He set the sun and moon in place, He had already determined the Friday in Jerusalem when His Son would hang on a cross to save the world. Jesus was the Lamb whose death was planned before the world was created, says Revelation 13:8. God spoke of it in the Garden to Adam and Eve: One would come whose heel would be bruised, but He would crush the head of the serpent. Someday sin and Satan would be dealt a deathblow. The prophets anticipated this Messiah who would suffer but then see the light of life and who, bearing their iniquities, would justify many (Isaiah 53:11).

FAMILY MEMORY VERSE

“And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, 'Surely this man was the Son of God!'" (Mark 15:39)

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we could never come to You if You had not made a way for us. That way cost You so much. Thank You for loving us enough to go through with Your plan. We praise You, Jesus, for Your victory over sin and death that opened the way for us to come into the Father’s presence clean and forgiven. Amen.

