

Good Friday Lessons from the Cross

By definition a disciple is not just a follower. A disciple is a student. A master is not just a leader. A master is a teacher. It seems that in the gospels, Jesus led by teaching and sensing the responsibility that is given to one who teaches, Jesus never misses an opportunity to convey some truth to His students. The Old Testament understood the responsibility of teaching and instructed parents to teach the basic truths of God, diligently to their children, from morning to night, when sitting around the house or out taking care of business. (Dt 6:7).

Jesus teaches us:

1. That forgiveness is at the core of Christianity.
2. That paradise is real, and it is available to all who believe.
3. That family is still the most basic unit of society.
4. That sin is serious, and judgment is necessary.
5. That loneliness and rejection are painful.
6. That atonement is complete, and redemption is applied.
7. That complete submission to God is required.

Throughout His life, Jesus had taught His disciples about each of these things. In His death, He demonstrated for them (and for us) what these teachings look like. In other words, Jesus does not just teach us abstract concepts about theology. He teaches us the reality of our condition and the love God has for us that compels Jesus to go to the cross.

Reflection

Take some time between now and Easter and reflect on these words spoken by Jesus from the cross. Consider how each of them has made or is making a difference in the way you live your life. For instance, are you extending forgiveness the way Jesus extended forgiveness? Are you holding on to the things of this world as if this is your home, or are you looking towards the promise of paradise? Since Jesus gave up His life for us, how can we take advantage this week of living for the cause of Christ and His kingdom?