

Week of April 9 - Father, Forgive Them... Small Group Lesson

Connect

What do you find the most mysterious about the resurrection: the circumstantial (scientific) evidence, the reason for it, or the spiritual (resulting) significance? Why?

Verses - Luke 23:32-49 (CSB)

32 Two others—criminals—were also led away to be executed with him. 33 When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided his clothes and cast lots. 35 The people stood watching, and even the leaders were scoffing: “He saved others; let him save himself if this is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One!” 36 The soldiers also mocked him. They came offering him sour wine 37 and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 An inscription was above him: This Is the King of the Jews. 39 Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other answered, rebuking him: “Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? 41 We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43 And he said to him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” 44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, 45 because the sun’s light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. 46 And Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.” Saying this, he breathed his last. 47 When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous!” 48 All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. 49 But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Study

1. Take a look at v.35. Why do you think Jesus did not save himself and "prove" He was God? Why would that not be "desired"? (1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:5; Philippians 2:8; Luke 22:42)

2. What does it mean that Jesus was the "chosen one?" What was He chosen for and who chose him? Why is it important that it was Jesus? (Luke 2:1; Acts 5:42; Isaiah 9:6; John 20:31)

3. What evidence did the people witness that caused them to change their minds? How about the centurion?

☕ **DISCUSS:** Do you think the thief on the cross actually believed he would be in paradise? Why do you think so? (see: Mark 15:44)

🏃 **APPLY:** What part of the story do you think is important that you tell when sharing the gospel? Why is all of it necessary? (1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-13)

Share

How do you think you can use this Easter, the Resurrection Day, as an opportunity to share the Good News?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be humble before Him.
- Would you like to share your love and hope to kids through TBCKIDZ Church? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org