

Jesus Conquers Sin and Death

Lesson 06 of the series "Jesus in Action"

"This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." Mark 1:1 (NLT)

1. Jesus is crucified for our sins.

And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull"). They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign was fastened to the cross, announcing the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!" The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!" Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:22-39 (NLT)

Note: Most of the people who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion misunderstood what the Messiah came to do.

"We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?" John 12:34 (NLT)

Messiah = Christ = Anointed one = Deliverer

Life Application: We must not misunderstand what Jesus came to do.

"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all." Isaiah 53:5-6 (NLT)

"He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds." Titus 2:14 (NLT)

Note: It matters that the curtain in the Temple was torn in two when Jesus died.

"That first covenant between God and Israel had regulations for worship and a place of worship here on earth. There were two rooms in that Tabernacle. In the first room were a lampstand, a table, and sacred loaves of bread on the table. This room was called the Holy Place. Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was the second room called the Most Holy Place... the priests regularly entered the first room as they performed their religious duties. But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year. And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance." Hebrews 9:1-7 (NLT)

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place." Hebrews 10:19-20 (NLT)

2. Jesus rises from the dead.

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene and Salome and Mary the mother of James went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is

where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.” Mark 16:1-7 (NLT)

Note: It matters that Jesus rose from the dead.

“...if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.” 1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (NLT)

After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn’t believe her. Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them. Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead. And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

Mark 16:9-16 (NLT)

Life Application: We must stop our stubborn unbelief.

Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!” John 20:27 (NLT)

Life Application: We must go into all the world and share the Good News with everyone.

“Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ.” Romans 16:3-5 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions

1. What is your funniest Easter memory? What is your most meaningful Easter memory?
2. How do you let your friends and family know about good things that have happened to you (weddings, childbirth, new job/promotion, etc.)? How can we tell our family and friends the Good News about Jesus?
3. Compare Mark 15:21-41, Psalm 22:1,7-8,14-18 and Isaiah 53:3-7. Why do you think the Jewish religious leaders (who certainly knew Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53) failed to recognize Jesus as the Messiah?
4. Read Mark 15:38. Why did Mark think that it was important to mention that the curtain in the Temple was torn in two when Jesus died? (see Hebrews 9:1-7).
5. Hebrews 10:19 says "...we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus." What does this mean to you?
6. Read Mark 16:1-7. How would you have reacted if you had been with the women at Jesus' tomb that first Easter Sunday morning?
7. Mark 16:9-16. What causes stubborn unbelief? Is there a cure? Have you ever stubbornly refused to believe something that was right?

Quotations to ponder:

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" John 11:25-26

"The tomb of Christ is famous because of what it DOES NOT CONTAIN." Sam Morris

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing ye heavens, and earth reply Alleluia!" Charles Wesley

"Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection." Watchman Nee

"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." Romans 6:4 (NLT)