



In the last week of Jesus' life before His crucifixion we see Him clearly focused on accomplishing His purpose...His mission. In the weeks leading up to Easter we will focus in on what He did and said, who He engaged with, and how he made decisions. As we follow Him on His journey to the Cross, what lessons will there be for us?

Week Seven: Mission Completed

Texts: Luke 23, Matthew 27, John 19

Discussion Questions:

The following are based on the "My Application" Questions found in the bulletin this week. (Leader, urge your group members to attend worship—or watch the sermon online—and to spend time considering and answering those questions before coming to the group. This will produce a richer discussion time.)

- When was the last time you were wronged in some way? How did you respond?
- Most of us are quick to defend our dignity, reputation, agenda, even our calendar. How does Jesus' attitude toward people as he hung on the cross compare with our natural inclinations?
- Mark described three types of participant in the drama at the Cross.
 - a. Mocker: resisting Jesus, hostile or ridiculing
 - b. Passerby: questioning Jesus, suspicious and doubting
 - c. Follower: identified with Jesus even at personal risk

A couple of characters actually switched from one “type” to another during the Crucifixion. Describe their change.

Which type of participant do you most identify with? (Maybe you have changed over the years. Describe that transformation.) Is there another “type” you would add that describes you better?

Prayer:

- Mark quoted Dr. Ramesh Richard as saying, “If the cause is important enough then the cost is irrelevant.” For Jesus, seeking and saving the lost was the Cause. His own life was the Cost. Spend some time meditating on this:
 - *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed (bought back) from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18-19*
- Thank God for paying such a cost for you!

Application:

- Review your FRANC list. (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, Co-workers)
- Which of these might you BLESS by inviting them to join you for our Easter Celebration?

Scripture Memory:

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21