



Crucifixion/Habits

18th Confirmation Class Handout

Numbers 21:4 The Israelites set out from Mount Hor along the Red Sea Road, a detour around the land of Edom. The people became irritable and cross as they traveled. 5 They spoke out against God and Moses: "Why did you drag us out of Egypt to die in this godforsaken wilderness? No decent food; no water - we can't stomach this stuff any longer." 6 So God sent poisonous snakes among the people; they bit them and many in Israel died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke out against God and you. Pray to God; ask him to take these snakes from us." Moses prayed for the people. 8 God said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it on a flagpole: Whoever is bitten and looks at it will live." 9 So Moses made a snake of fiery copper and put it on top of a flagpole. Anyone bitten by a snake who then looked at the copper snake lived.

John 3:14: In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up 15 and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

Mark 15:15-34; 37-39 (The Message): 15 Pilate gave the crowd what it wanted, set Barabbas free and turned Jesus over for whipping and crucifixion. 16 The soldiers took Jesus into the palace (called Praetorium) and called together the entire brigade. 17 They dressed him up in purple and put a crown plaited from a thorn bush on his head. 18 Then they began their mockery: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" 19 They banged on his head with a club, spit on him, and knelt down in mock worship. 20 After they had had their fun, they took off the purple cape and put his own clothes back on him. Then they marched out to nail him to the cross. 21 There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus' cross.

22 The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning "Skull Hill." 23 They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn't take it. 24 And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them. 25 They nailed him up at nine o'clock in the morning. 26 The charge against him - the king of the Jews - was printed on a poster. 27 Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. 29 People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days - 30 so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

31 The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others - but he can't save himself! 32 Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We'll all become believers then!" Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery. 33 At noon the sky became extremely dark. 34 The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

37 Then Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath. 38 At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle. 39 When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that Jesus had quit breathing, he said, "This has to be the Son of God!"

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

What habits bind your hands that you want to stop but can't? What spiritual discipline would you like to become a new habit to replace the old habit(s)?