

Jesus' Death

Lesson 10 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will identify key events of Jesus' Passion and death.
- The participants will understand the meaning of Jesus' death for all humanity.

Content Summary

1. The mystery of the Incarnation tells us that Jesus was both true God and true man.
2. To fully understand the importance of Jesus' Passion and death, we need to understand both the natural and the supernatural reasons why it happened.
3. Both Jewish and Roman leaders wanted Jesus dead. The chief priests and scribes claimed that Jesus committed blasphemy when he claimed powers for himself that belonged to God alone. Pilate was convinced that Jesus was the potential leader of a rebellion (Luke 23:5)—which the Romans were quick to squash.
4. Jesus was fully human and experienced doubt, pain, and fear, but still chose to obey God's will.
5. Jesus Christ's death was part of the mystery of God's plan for the salvation of the human race.
6. God can accomplish his purposes through freely made human decisions, even sinful decisions, such as those made by the people responsible for Jesus' death.
7. God planned that his Son, who was also God himself, would take on the burden of sin for all humanity, dying so that we might be free from the sentence of death.
8. Salvation from sin and death for every person in every age comes through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
9. The first Christians looked to their sacred writings, the Jewish Scriptures, for explanations of Jesus' death.
10. Three symbolic explanations help us to understand how Jesus' death frees us from sin: Jesus, the Suffering Servant; Jesus, the Paschal Lamb; and Jesus, the ransom for many. They illustrate that through the death of Jesus Christ, the separation between God and humanity—which is caused by sin—has been bridged.
11. For Catholics and for all Christians, the death of Jesus Christ is the ultimate sign of the love of God that is available to each and every person who puts their faith and trust in him.

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