

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(C.R.S)

PASSION

Passion means having a very strong and deep feeling for something, ideas. In the case of Jesus, He knew that he would be crucified on the cross by the Jews. This feeling of His approaching immediate arrest, tortures and death became his passion. Even in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus expressed his passion.

Significance of the triumphant entry.

1. Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel and Jesus entered there to present himself as the truly expected messiah.
2. Jesus choose to rise on a colt to present Himself as a prince of peace.
3. Jesus drove away those who sold in the temple to assert his authority as the son and to uphold the holiness of the temple.
4. Hosanna means, save now, which is a recognition of messiah of Jesus.

Moral lessons.

Humility is needed to be a true child of God.

Jesus sent Peter and John to go and prepare the Passover for them.

Passover feast is a Jewish festival marking the liberation of the Jews from their bondage in Egypt. The last supper marked the origin of the Holy communion in the present day church.

Summary and facts to note

1. The last supper took place during the feast of the Passover.
2. It was the day Jesus washed His disciples' feet.
3. Jesus informed His disciples that one of them would betray him.
4. The bread represents the body of Jesus while the wine represents the blood of the new covenant for the forgiveness of sins of the world.

Moral lessons.

The Holy Communion as the unifying factor between Christians and Jesus Christ should be taken with respect and Holiness.

At the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus became sorrowful. He advised his disciples to watch and pray to escape temptation.

On the three separate occasions, Jesus found His disciples asleep instead of praying. Judas who betrayed Jesus identified Him before the Jews with a kiss.

1. How many times did Jesus found His disciples sleeping instead of praying?
2. Who among the disciples of Jesus ran away naked when Jesus was arrested?

Immediately Jesus was arrested, He was taken to be tried by the Jewish supreme council or the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was made up of the chief priest, the scribes and the elders and headed by the high priests.

Before the Sanhedrin, Jesus was accused of claiming to be able to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, as well as claiming to be son of God. Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed twice.

Moral lessons

1. False accusation leads to the punishment of the innocent. We must avoid accusing people falsely.
2. A good leader should be bold and take actions without fear or favour. Pilate failed to demonstrate this quality of leadership.

Seven words of Jesus on the cross (Mathew 27:46, Mark 15:34, Luke 23:34,43,46, John 4:20-22)

1. "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabaethani"
2. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do"
3. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise".
4. "Father unto thy hand I commit my spirit"
5. "Mother behold your son, son, behold your mother"
6. "I am thirsty"
7. "It is finished".

CRUCIFIXION

Immediately Pilate delivered Jesus to the Jews to be crucified, the soldiers took him inside the place called *Praetorian*.

Jesus was arrested by angry mob who hated him. His trial before the Sanhedrin took place at night contrary to the rule of fair hearing.

Jesus was then in the hand of a battalion of soldiers and dressed in a purple cloak, plaited a crown of thorns and put it on his head.

The Jews spat on Him, covered his face and gave him several blows. Before Pilate handed him over to the Jews to be crucified, he gave him several strokes of cane. He was forced to carry his own cross at a time He had become tired, He was given wine mixed with gall. After nailing him to a cross, he died.

Mary Magdalene; Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee were among the women disciples who followed Jesus from Galilee and watched his crucifixion from afar.

Punishments given to Jesus from His arrest to crucifixion (Mk. 14:46, 14:53, 14:65, Mk 15. 1-15, 17, 1524).

He was crucified with two robbers, one at His left and the other at His right. He died at the ninth hour and the temple curtain tore from the top to bottom, followed by other signs. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus and Joseph were among the women disciples that followed Jesus from Galilee and watched Jesus crucifixion.

Moral lesson

Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we might be saved. We have to appreciate this by loving him in our lives as our personal savior.

BURIAL OF CHRIST

(MTT 27:57-61, MK 15:42-47, LK. 23:50-56)

Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. The day following the Sabbath called the preparation day, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish council, went to Pilate to release the body of Jesus for him. This was granted when Pilate discovered that he was dead, Joseph buried him in his own tomb.

The women having seen where Jesus was buried, went home and came back with ointment.

Moral lesson

The action of Joseph explains his love for Jesus. We Christian students should express such love by welcoming Jesus in our lives, listening attentively to His teachings.

We Christians should emulate the women disciples in running the heavenly race.

THE RESURRECTION AND APPEARANCE (*Mtt 28:1-10, Mk 16:1-18, Lk 24:1-12, John 2:1-10*) Resurrection means to come back to life after death. Therefore, without death, there will be no resurrection.

According to the Gospel of Mathew, after the Sabbath and towards the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday), Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb of Jesus, on their arrival at the place he was buried, they found out that the stone with which the tomb of Jesus was covered had been rolled out.

Looking inside the tomb, the women saw an Angel with the appearance of a lightening and his cloth as white as snow.

The Angel informed them that Jesus had risen from dead.

The significance of the resurrection

1. The resurrection explains the victory of Jesus over death.
2. Following the resurrection of Jesus, we Christians have hope of resurrection on the last day.
3. The resurrection points to the divinity of Jesus.

Reflection: Why is the resurrection of Christ important in the faith of Christians?

1. The victory of Jesus over death was made possible because of divinity.
2. Jesus rose on the third day after his crucifixion.
3. Jesus died as a man and rose as God.
4. The resurrection of Jesus was first discovered by the women disciples.
5. It was an Angel that informed the women.

Moral lessons

1. The victory of Jesus over death gives hope of eternal life to Christians provided they obey his teaching.
2. The resurrection of Jesus and later appearance to His disciples is a demonstration of love for them who were left hopelessly as sheep without shepherd.