

Lenten Theme: Symbols of the Cross—Lord of Life, Westfield, IN 3/3/04

Title: “Never a doubt”

Text: John 19: 28-37

Intro.: Ills.: “The Da Vinci Code” by Dan Brown—do we need a decoder ring

Theme: The Scriptures played a key role at the cross; predicting the exact events of Jesus suffering and death so that we could be sure of our salvation.

Sure that Jesus was God’s real substitute for you and me

- John quotes the Psalms to show that Jesus was the Messiah not a martyr
 1. Messianic Ps. 69:21 “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”
 2. There were lots of charismatic, zealot martyrs who gave up lives for Jewish race
 3. Jesus came to give up his life for the human race
 1. *“If anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2*
 2. You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power . . . We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. . . He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."Acts10:38-43
- Jesus did not quit before he was done
 4. Vinegar drink on the end of the sponge was laced with opiate to put out of misery
 5. Jesus did not drink from it until every was “finished” so that suffering was complete
 6. Scripture used by God to set up crucifixion scene so no doubt about Jesus
 7. **Ills.: Avoid watching ABC “false gospel” on Judas (world reaction to Gibson)**

Sure that Jesus was the perfect substitute for you and me

- Jesus became God’s perfect Passover lamb, once and for all time
 1. At the hour that Passover lambs offered up –God’s lamb, Jesus, offered up
 1. Passover lamb Ex 12: 46 and Numb9:12 “nor are you to break any bone of it”
 2. Perfect sacrificial substitute so that participant did not have to die
 2. John quotes/paraphrases Psalm 34:20/Zech 12: 10 to show not mere coincidence
 1. **Ills.: Passion of Christ —final scene where the legs broken/side pierced**
- Jesus did not just do part of the job toward our redemption but was perfect satisfaction
 3. “Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”Heb7:26-27
 4. Live as if you no longer have to do something to get God on your side
 5. *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2*