

NEXUS

Week 4: History

Luke 23:27-46

1. Other than things related to Jesus, what would you say is the most pivotal point in history? What has been the most pivotal point in the history of your personal life?
2. Jesus changed the way certain segments of society were viewed and treated by showing that He valued all people.
 - Thinking of Jesus' life, what were some of the surprising interactions that He had with women? What made these interactions counter-cultural? Overall, do you think the Church has done a good job of following Jesus' example in regards to women's value? Why or why not?
 - Pastor Mark mentioned some of the terrible ways that children were treated in the Roman empire. How did Jesus show a higher value and love for all children than his culture? How has the Church helped carry on this value?
3. Jesus also changed the way that mankind gains access to God. Before Jesus, how did people approach God? In what ways did Jesus change all that (consider verses like Philippians 1:9, Hebrews 4:16, 7:27, and Romans 5:1-2)? How is Jesus' interaction with the thief on the cross a perfect example of this new access to God?
4. Before Jesus, mercy and forgiveness were not highly held values. How did Jesus show us a new way in both His life and death? List some of the ways this has impacted our world. How has this impacted your life (both giving and receiving)?
5. Let's pause to examine how well we have integrated these world changing qualities of Jesus:
 - Jesus gave value to the least valued people in His society. Do I believe that every person matters? What is the evidence of this in my life? How can I better live this out?
 - Jesus opened access to God for all people. Who in my life is living without access to God through Jesus? How can this group be part of my efforts to lead them to Jesus?
 - Jesus elevated mercy and forgiveness. Take a moment of silence and ask God to reveal any unforgiveness in your heart. Share what God tells you with someone in the group this week (even by phone or email) and ask them to help hold you accountable to work through this issue.