

FACT OR FICTION

REALife Application

Why the Cross?

Matthew 27:26-50

What actually happened to Jesus?

- Scourging
- Mocking
- Torture
- Death

Why would God put His Son through that?

1. Human sinfulness enslaves and damages.
 - Our Person – thinking I am god
 - Our World – playing god
2. God's justice condemns sinners.
Pardon without punishment is moral indifference.
For God to be good He must punish evil.
3. Jesus dies as a substitute for us.

*2nd message in the Easter series, by Pastor Tim Hawks.
CDs of this message (04/19/09) may be purchased at the
Media Center or listened to online at www.hcbc.com.

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or REALife Group.

1. Spend some time meditating on the suffering of Jesus on the cross. What thoughts and feelings come to mind? How does the cross raise our alarm about the human condition?
2. Think through the history of the world. What does history tell us about the nature of humanity? What does the history of your life tell about your nature? See Romans 3:23
3. If God decided to just give everyone a "free pass", what would that say about His goodness? How does the cross demonstrate both God's goodness and His grace?
4. Why is the message of Jesus' substitutionary death and miraculous resurrection called the Gospel, which means "good news"? Who do you know that needs to hear the "good news"?



Memory Verse

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24