
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 9, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the Great Price *Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. The Roman king did NOT put up with lawbreakers! He punished them in different ways. He wanted to make sure everyone obeyed his laws.
2. But the Roman king had ONE punishment he saved for only the very worst kinds of lawbreakers: death on a cross. It was a terrible way to die. So terrible, that to even say the word "cross" was a bad word that good people didn't say.
3. Who died on crosses? Traitors did --men who tried to get rid of the king. Murderers did --men who killed other people. And robbers did --men who took other people's things. These worst kinds of lawbreakers were given this worst kind of punishment.
4. One Friday, long ago, the king sent three men to die on crosses at Golgotha, the cross hill outside of Jerusalem. Two of the men were robbers, but the third one was a man no one expected to see there. It was Jesus!
5. Now, everyone could understand why the two robbers had been put on their crosses. These men had snatched other people's things, and now they were being punished for the bad things they had done. That was the Roman king's law.
6. But Jesus had lived a perfect life. He had never disobeyed God. He had never done anything wrong. He didn't do anything to deserve to die on a cross. Why was HE on that cross? Was it just a big mistake?
7. No, it wasn't. The Roman king was wrong to put Jesus to death, but God had all along made Jesus' death on the cross part of His good plan. This is how He would save His people. Jesus would give His perfect life to take all of God's punishment for their sins.
8. From God? Why would God need to punish His people? Because they were sinners, and God hates sin. Like everyone else in the world, they deserved His punishment, not His love.
9. But God loves His people better than they deserve. Jesus took the punishment for the sins of God's people upon Himself, so they wouldn't have to. He made the way for them to be loved by God forever, instead of punished!
10. And how do we KNOW that Jesus took all of the punishment for God's people that day? Because on Day Three, Jesus rose up from the dead, showing that He had really done it! He had beaten sin and death for God's people.
11. Now, God's people were forgiven forever! They would get to know and love Him in their hearts their whole lives. And one day, when they die, they would get to go live with God forever!
12. "Thank You, Jesus, for taking all of God's punishment for God's people. Thank You that You offer us to become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in You as our Savior. Help us do this, even today."