THE FINAL EVENTS OF JESUS' EARTHLY LIFE

John 18-20

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What events do you associate with the end of Jesus' earthly life?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to believe in Jesus' resurrection? Why?

The stories of Jesus' last days on earth may seem familiar to many of us. Each year, we remember them as we observe Lent and celebrate Easter. And yet, it is good to be reminded that Jesus went to the cross for our salvation knowingly and willingly. Join us to study the stories recorded in John's gospel that bear witness to these events and be reassured of God's great love for you and of your important place in the gospel story.

Listen:*The Final Events of Jesus' Earthly Life*

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, host Dave Bast observes that Jesus knew what was going to happen to him, had the opportunity to walk away, but that "Jesus wants the Father's will to be fulfilled, and that is all about salvation; and so he goes knowingly to his fate here in John." What does it mean to you that Jesus fulfilled the Father's will knowingly and willingly? What does it teach you about his love for you?
- In his last spoken word from the cross, Jesus declared, "It is finished." Dave and host Scott Hoezee remind us that in that statement Jesus declared his work of sin-bearing to be finished. With his life, he paid the entire cost for the sins of humanity; there was no more redemption work to do. Do you continue to bear the burden of your sins? Is it difficult or easy for you to accept that Jesus' has completed the work of salvation and there is nothing more you need to do for redemption?
- In segment 3, Scott points out that *we are in the Bible*. Have you ever thought about this before? How does this help you see your place in the gospel story?
- As the episode closes, Dave says, "If we didn't believe that the resurrection was a real event, I don't think we would believe in Jesus…" Do you agree or disagree with Dave's statement? Why?

Related Passages

- **1 Peter 1:8**
- **Hebrews 9:11-28**
- **John 17:20-23**

Conclusion

Consider the stories we studied from the gospel of John's perspective: Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion; Jesus' resurrection, and his post-resurrection encounters with Mary and Thomas. Did John's perspective, or Scott and Dave's discussion of John's perspective, give you any new insights or "aha" moments as you studied these familiar stories?

Close your time of study and reflection in a time of prayer. Tell God if there's something you struggle to believe, tell him what you learned or about your new insights, and give thanks for his redemption plan and for Jesus' willingness to go to the cross for your salvation.

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