

April 1 – Maundy Thursday - Scripture: Luke 22: 66-71 & Luke 23: 1-25

A verse that speaks to you: These are all of the verses that I read, but not all of them really had an impact on me. Luke 22: 70-- this is what I wrote about.

Observation: In this scripture, Jesus is before the elders and priests before his crucifixion and the people are questioning him. The people asked him "Are you the son of God?" and he replied, "You say that I am." Jesus doesn't confront the people and yell at them saying, "You fools! Of course I am the Messiah and I have come to save you and deliver you and yet you do not believe." Instead, Jesus points out quietly that, although the people of Israel expected a warrior to overthrow the Romans, he was the one that had been prophesied.

Application: In today's world, it's easy for us to say that Jesus should make things better for us, or that since we know Jesus, our lives should be easier in some way. But this passage reminds us that Jesus came to be himself and to offer us forgiveness, not to make us more comfortable. Everything that Jesus did was purposeful and he wants us to live in the same way. When people ask us "Are you a Christian?" We should everyday strive to be able to respond, "YOU say that I am." Notice that if we are able to say this, it shows that not only are we truly believers, but those around us will know us by our actions, even through trials. Can you imagine what Jesus must have been feeling when the people asked him, "Are you the son of God?" This wasn't some innocent question; the priests and elders meant to trap Jesus and find reason to crucify him. Even in his situation, Jesus remained firm in who he was. He didn't say, "Yeah, I guess so," or "I used to be, but, I don't feel like that anymore." He said, "You say that I am." In other words, yes, I have been from the beginning and nothing will change that. When you love me, I am Christ. When you hate me, I am Christ. As Christians, it is our job to remain in the world so that we can show the world by example his great love for us. Even while we were sinners, Christ laid down his life for us.

Prayer: Dear Lord, Thank you for encouraging me to remain steadfast in you and to strive to show the world your love everyday through the way I live my life. Please help me to continue to live every day for you.

~ Amen

Writer: Kelly – I've been at Eastminster for about 12 years and I became a member four years ago. I've really been growing in my faith over the past four years and my current biggest challenge is balancing all the amazing opportunities God is giving me