

Jesus is the Lamb

Announcements

- *my Church* series starts next week. This six-week series will include weekend messages, small groups lessons with Pastor Steve on DVD and much more.
- **Dream Team** – Sunday, April 15th, 5:00 pm at LCC.
Help get your small group serving together by attending encouraging those in your group to attend *Dream Team Orientation*.

Warm-up

Do you agree with the following well-known statement: “*You never get a second chance to make a first impression.*” Why or why not?

If you were to ask most people to describe God, how do you think they would answer? Why?

Many of our first impressions of God are flawed due to misperceptions we picked up from movies, pictures, traditions or maybe past church experiences. Today we are going to explore who God is by discussing how Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Word & Application

Read John 1:29. This verse clearly describes Jesus and the purpose for which he came to earth. The picture of Jesus being “the lamb” is used to point to the sacrificial position he took to pay for our sins.

Prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection, lambs had to be sacrificed as substitutes and sacrifices for sin. As a matter of fact, it was a Jewish law that two lambs had to be sacrificed each day in order to pay the price for the sins that were committed throughout the day (**Exodus 29:38-39**).

Read Exodus 12:5 to see the standards of the sacrificial lambs. According to Old Testament Law, these lambs had to be perfect. In the same manner, Jesus is the only person who has ever lived a perfect life. Therefore, He is the only person who can be our sacrificial lamb.

We cannot earn our way to Heaven because we will never be able to measure up. No matter how much our good works outweigh our bad, we will always come up short of being perfect.

Why do you think we tend to try to do good things in order to earn our way into Heaven?

Jesus gave his life as the “sacrificial lamb” so that we can have eternal life. This means He is not keeping score of our wrong, but He loved us enough to die a sinner’s death. Describe how this makes you feel? Does this change your perception of Jesus?

Even after accepting Jesus as their sacrificial lamb, a lot of Christians still try to **earn their way** to Heaven. Why do you think this is such a hard pattern to break? How have you overcome the mindset of having to earn your way in to Heaven?

"We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Hebrews 10:10

It is through the sacrifice that Jesus made that we can be made holy (perfect) in God's eyes. This is the only way to claim the promise of eternal life in Heaven.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. These verses point out that it is not only the death of the perfect sacrifice, but also Jesus' resurrection that gives us eternal life. The cross is a powerful symbol, but it is Jesus' empty grave that gives us the confidence that we can have eternal life.

How has this past Easter and the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection impacted you?

How has the *Jesus Is* series helped you understand who Jesus is?

Prayer

Ask God to help everyone in the small group to understand what Jesus did for them on Easter. Also, take time to ask everybody in your group what specific prayer requests they have and also what prayers they have had answered recently.