

MAIN POINT

Leading up to His death, Jesus was in complete control but submitted Himself to the cross for our sin.

INTRODUCTION

How would you answer if asked, “why did Jesus have to go to the cross?”

What emotions stir in you when you think of the events surrounding Jesus’ death on the cross?
Why?

Easter is the most significant time of the year on the Christian calendar. While some may look at the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus as a tragedy, or a case of an unjust conviction of an innocent man, the Christian can find great hope not only in the cross but in the trials that led to it. Through these trials, Jesus demonstrated His absolute control that reminds us He was not forced to the cross but willingly went on our behalf.

DISCUSSION

> READ JOHN 18:29-40 AND 19:11.

How do you see Jesus demonstrating that He is in control in these verses?

What about these events may tempt us to believe that Jesus was not in control?

Why is it significant that Jesus told Pilate that He was born for this?

Look back at Pilate’s question in verse 38. Where do you see our culture asking that same question today?
Why is it important that we have a firm answer for that question?

It cost Jesus to stand for the truth. Why does standing on foundational truth always come with a cost?

How have you experienced the cost required to hold to truth?

Have you ever thought of yourself as being Barabbas? How does doing so help you understand the cost and benefit of the gospel?

Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus endured the cross “for the joy that was set before him.” How does this verse, along with today’s passages remind us that no one took Jesus’ life from Him, but He laid it down willingly?

How does it shape your perspective of Jesus to recognize that he was not forced to the cross but went willingly on your behalf?

APPLICATION

What in your life feels out of your control? What are some ways you can remind yourself that Jesus is in control this week?