

The Passion of Jesus Christ

A Bible study from focusonthefamily.com

Lesson Three: Was Jesus Innocent or Guilty of Blasphemy?

Read aloud:

Usually, it's wrong to break the law. Sometimes, however, it's important to break the law to save someone's life.

What's the difference between these two situations?

An ambulance driver hears there is an emergency. She turns on special lights, drives faster than the speed limit, and even runs red lights so she can help save someone's life.

Your uncle really wants to get home in time for the big game on TV. He drives faster than the speed limit and even runs red lights.

Who broke the law? [The uncle]

Why wasn't the ambulance driver guilty of breaking the law? [Her job gives her the authority to drive faster than the speed limit and go through red lights to help save people's lives.]

Our last lesson talked about blasphemy — when someone claims to do or say something that only God should do or say. We also learned that the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy and said He deserved the death penalty.

But was Jesus really guilty of blasphemy? [No!]

Let's read four Scriptures together out loud. We'll see that the Bible says Jesus is God's unique Son — fully human and fully divine.

First, let's open the Bible and read John 1:1-3, 14. The "Word" means Jesus. What does the Bible say about Jesus? [Jesus is God — He became a human being and lived on earth.]

Second, let's read Philippians 2:5-11. What else does the Bible say about Jesus? [Jesus is God — He died on a cross, but God the Father has exalted Him.]

Third, let's read Colossians 2:9. What does this verse say about Jesus? [Jesus is God — fully, in every way.]

Fourth, let's read Hebrews 1:3. What does this last verse say about Jesus? [Jesus is God — displaying God's awesome glory.]

Remember how the ambulance driver wasn't guilty of speeding because the law gave her the authority to drive faster than the speed limit?

Even though Jesus said things like "I and the Father are one" and healed people on the Sabbath, He wasn't guilty of breaking any of God's laws. He was completely innocent. Why? Because He is God!

As God, Jesus has the authority to say and do what God wants to say and do.

Talk about it:

1. What does the Bible tell us about Jesus and God?
2. Was Jesus ever guilty of the sin of blasphemy? Why or why not?

Define these words:

Authority — the ability to exercise power

Innocent — completely free from sin, guilt and shame

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