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Devotion for November 18th, 2021

Matthew 27:33-56

If you haven't already, I encourage you to go and read the entirety of today's passage from Matthew. Read it slowly. Take in the details.

Oftentimes we are so removed from the events of Jesus' crucifixion that they may not hold much weight in our lives. We know our Savior died for us, we know that He was treated horribly in the process, but we don't often have to focus on the details of what that looked like for Him and for the early church afterwards.

On Monday of this week I was blessed to get to take Deaconess Sandra Rhein around to many of our classrooms and listen to her speak to the children about her work as a missionary for our church body. By far the thing the children latched onto the most was persecution. They were shocked to hear there are parts of our world where Christians must worship in groups of ten or less, and they must continue to rotate where they gather.

Or that Deaconess Rhein coming to them as a missionary wasn't actually allowed to attend worship with them because it would've drawn attention to the group to have an American "tourist" meet with them. Our children asked many questions about this. It's something they truly don't understand or have much scope to comprehend.

The same can be said for when we consider the crucifixion. Amazing things happened at the time of Jesus' death. Horrible things happened, but amazing things happened through Him. The curtain tore, stones were split, saints rose from the dead. And above all, forgiveness was won for all Christians for forever.

Today I encourage you to pray for all those who don't know about Christ's amazing sacrifice, for all those who have to suffer because they know and believe, and that we all might never forget how blessed we are to have a Savior who endured so much for us.

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern
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