

*"Ecce Homo"*  
John 19:1-5

In this passage Jesus is standing trial before the people in the court of law. Pilate tells the people that he could not find any sin in Jesus, so he exclaims "Behold the man!", which in the Greek is "*ecce homo*".

As we live our lives we will absolutely encounter times of despair and hurt. It is important to think of these experiences as a race with hurdles. Hurdles are not meant to be tripped over or barriers to stop us, they are meant to be jumped over and overcome.

In the same way, the trials and tribulations God gives to us are not meant to make us fall and stay still, they are put in our way to force us to jump over and to make us grow from those experiences. It is through the trials that God will give a bigger dream and a bigger vision to us.

Out of all the four gospels, only John recorded the "*ecce homo*" that we have read today. Why would the gospel of John be the only one with this phrase?  
This is because John wants to encourage us to look upon Jesus Christ who suffered for our sake. Even though He went through trials, it is through His life we are able to gain strength and see that we are also able to overcome.

It is in this way that John writes,

**The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)**

**And he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36)**

There were two instances where we are encouraged to look upon Jesus.

When we read the book of John and read the words of Pilate when he says, "Behold the man!" I hope we can remember what God has done for us and what we are able to withstand because of Him.

My church,  
The God we believe in received every type of persecution in front of the cross. But Jesus could have avoided all of that scorn and punishment; He voluntarily took it upon Himself. He received the pain, but He also was able to overcome it.

That is why John was able to say, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" and how we are able to look at this passage and repeat in full confidence, "*ecce homo*!" or "Behold the man!"

I hope that in whatever situation we may enter, we would only "behold the man" or look only at God. You may have gone through hardships, and I guarantee that you will go through difficult times ahead, but instead of looking at the situation in despair, I hope that you can look to the God who died for your sins and follow His example because He is the only one who is worthy and trustworthy to be looked upon.

*"Ecce Homo!"*

I hope that Shining Star Community Church can become a church where we look upon Jesus Christ alone in whatever situation, good or bad, we may be going through.

Sharing Time \_\_\_\_\_

1. In whatever situation, we must look solely upon Jesus Christ. Please talk about a difficult time in your life but through looking only on the Lord, you were able to overcome.
2. When you run hurdles, the point is not to fall over but to jump over. What are some hurdles in your life and what are you doing or what will you do to overcome them? (Please also share times when you have failed to jump but instead have fallen. Those become precious moments because it grows you to be stronger for the next hurdle.)