



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: Dec. 3, 2017

"The Goodness of God in the Death of Christ"

PASSAGE: Mark 15

1. In Mark 15:5 we read that Pilate was amazed. Why? Consider the events of Mark 14 and 15. What proves to us that Christ went to the cross willingly? Name one example of this from Mark 15 and explain why it amazes you. What gospel truth is highlighted by Christ's willingness to go to the cross? With whom have you shared your amazement?

2. Hearing that someone was going to be crucified would have been common and familiar to the people in Jesus' day and many would have been unaffected by the news. How do you guard against the death of Christ becoming common and familiar? If you know the reason for the cross, how can you be sure that deepening your understanding of it won't make it boring and familiar?

3. Carefully consider the following layout of the gospel. What amazes you regarding your salvation?

OUR STATE:

1. Death (Romans 3:23) ————— Christ's Sacrifice (Hebrews 9:26)
2. Wrath (Romans 1:18) ————— Christ's Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17)
3. Separated (Isaiah 59:2) ————— Christ's Reconciliation (Romans 5:10)
4. Bondage (Romans 7:24) ————— Christ's Redemption (Galatians 3:13)

GOD'S SOLUTION:

4. What is the connection between Mark 15:33 and Exodus 10:21-29 and what does it teach us about what Jesus' death accomplished? In Mark 15:34-38 Jesus cries out to God asking why he has forsaken him, and shortly after the curtain in the temple would be torn. What does this teach us about what Jesus' death accomplished? Have you ever struggled with the assurance of your salvation? When do you struggle the most? How do the events of Jesus' death speak to your struggle?

5. Consider 4 different responses to Jesus' death in faith found in Mark 15:

1. Verse 39 — The centurion would have had to give up allegiance to Rome.
2. Verse 40 — Mary Magdalene would need to give up shame of her past.
3. Verse 40 — Salome would need to give up pride of wanting her sons honoured.
4. Verse 43 — Joseph would overcome fear to approach Pilate and later the council.

All faced different potential obstacles to their faith in Christ but all laid down everything for the spread of the name of Christ. To whom can you relate most to and why? Is there something you are facing in which you must lay down your life for Christ?

f. BREAKOUT

What amazes you most regarding the death of Christ and how has it changed you?

Memory Verse

Romans 5:8-10 "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."