



# SERMON SINGLES

# HIGHER AIM

## The Wonderful Cross

*Mark 15:16-20*

### INTRODUCTION

Nothing is more important for believers than understanding the power of the wonderful cross. Think about those two words, “wonderful” and “cross.” Those two words don't really fit together because the cross was an instrument of death. That is what the Romans used to crucify criminals along a major road, as a warning to those who would resist the Roman government. It was an object of death. But for us as believers, what Jesus did on the cross was very powerful. In fact, if the Gospel is really to be preached, the cross of Christ must be lifted up. You cannot have the Gospel without the cross. In today’s message, we’re going to look at why the cross is so wonderful to those of us who follow Jesus, even though that was never the Roman government’s intent.

### KEY POINTS

#### **1. The Cross is Wonderful in our Daily Discipleship.**

Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we are set free. We need to stay in that position of dying to ourselves, dying to what we want, and dying to what we want to happen. I have no doubt that there are many things happening in your life that you didn't expect to happen.

You might be experiencing things that didn't even appear on your dream list years ago. The only way you can walk through those uncomfortable and painful times is to see yourself dead on the cross. Your sinful nature gives you those desires to have your way rather than God's way. But when you submit to that aspect of denying yourself, that is taking up your cross.

#### **2. The Cross is Wonderful in its Powerful Declaration.**

Why would someone not want to preach on the cross?

- They do not want to offend people by pointing out that the reason for the cross is their sin!
- They don’t understand the power of the cross in its application.
- They have discounted the history of their heritage.
- They are more concerned with Success principles than Salvation principles.
- They have become a pleaser of men, rather than an ambassador for Christ.
- They have never had a personal encounter with Jesus.

### NOTES

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### **3. The Cross is Wonderful in its Dramatic Disruption.**

- The Cross disrupted government.
- The Cross disrupted the religious right.
- The Cross disrupted the following few.
- The Cross disrupted my life.

### **4. The Cross is Wonderful because of its Total Deliverance.**

- This is where we were set free from the power of sin.
- This is where we were made right with God.
- This is where Jesus bore our sins in His body.
- This is where the peace with God is settled.

### NOTES

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## **The Wonderful Cross**

*Mark 15:16-20*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. What does it say about God's character that He can take a death instrument like the cross and turn it into something wonderful?
2. What is something happening in your life right now that you didn't expect or ask for?
3. Why specifically are you grateful for the cross?

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