

Series: At The Cross



Message Title: The Passion of Christ (Easter Sunday)

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

1 Peter 2:22-24

He committed no sin, nor was deceit ever found in His mouth.

²³ *While being reviled and insulted, He did not revile or insult in return; while suffering, He made no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges fairly.*

²⁴ *He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross [willingly offering Himself on it], so that we might die to sin [becoming immune from the penalty and power of sin] and live for righteousness; for by His wounds you have been healed.*

Luke 22:22

For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined and appointed ...

Isaiah 53:3-5

He was despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and pain and acquainted with grief; And like One from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or esteem Him.

⁴ *But He has borne our griefs, And He has carried our sorrows and pains; Yet we assumed that He was stricken, Struck down by God and degraded and humiliated.*

⁵ *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

Discussion Part 1:

Consider the intricacies of God's complicated plan to redeem us. Talk about the different ways that Jesus suffered and what it has purchased for you. How should these scriptures affect your prayers? (Check out Philemon 1:6 - prayer should be according to knowledge of God's will).

S.Marshall thoughts:

When we take communion 1 Corinthians 11 says we celebrate "His death until He comes again". It seems too strange to celebrate a death, but Jesus conquered every enemy of your life with His "determined and appointed" suffering. Even Judas' betrayal of Jesus was part of His suffering for you. You are loved!

Have someone read:

Luke 24:1-7

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had made ready.

² *And they found the stone rolled back from the tomb,*

³ *But when they went inside, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

⁴ *And while they were perplexed and wondering what to do about this, behold, two men in dazzling raiment suddenly stood beside them.*

⁵ *[the women] were frightened and were bowing their faces to the ground, the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among the dead?*

⁶ *He is not here, but HE has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still in Galilee*

⁷ *That the Son of Man must be given over into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise [from death].*

Discussion Part 2:

When Jesus is doing what He does, our human side is most often perplexed and even frightened. Whether it is walking on water or rising from the grave, we are filled with wonder until we focus on what He told us. Notice how the angels said “Remember how He told you”. Miracles always have a completion date, BUT the Word is forever and able to continue into your future. Discuss how “He is risen!” can be actively working in your life now, and going forward. Jesus is alive! What does this mean to your crisis right now? Jesus being alive, how does this, or should this, affect the start of your day?

S.Marshall thoughts:

This is basically moving our theory about Jesus into a living, pragmatic relationship. If Jesus is Lord then His Word would be, should be, your number one source of direction every day. I like to approach God’s Word as a treasure map that’s latent with hidden gems from my Father.

Life Application:

Life is full of challenges but just imagine facing every challenge with “Jesus is alive!” This is why Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us. Focus requires planning. Make a list of 3 things you can eliminate to make more time for a Word focus. Remember Jesus is the Word, and the Word is God (John 1:1).

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

“Father we rejoice knowing that Jesus is alive! The King of kings is alive! Death is defeated and hope is alive in Christ. He has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows and pain. Jesus was cut for our sins, and bruised for our iniquity. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes, we were healed. That means the price has been paid for our healing. Praise God in the highest! (Continue praying this way and focus on any prayer requests for healing, depression, sadness, or emotional traumas).