

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Mark 15:21-39

July 20, 2025 | Pastor Keith Krell



SERMON APPLICATION REVIEW

How did you remain silent before your accusers and refuse to retaliate (15:4-5)?

When did you express gratitude for Jesus' suffering (15:15-20)?

In what ways might you have unintentionally mocked Jesus through your behavior (15:20)?

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15:21-39; Psalm 22:1-31; Romans 5:6-8; 8:35-39; Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:1-14; 10:19-22; Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Peter 2:21-25

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. How have you carried your cross (15:21)? Read Mark 8:34-38. In what area of your life has following Jesus been the most challenging? How have you continued to persevere boldly in Christ?
2. In what ways do you mock Jesus with your attitudes, priorities, or expectations of Him (15:29-32)? How can you shift your heart to express genuine gratitude instead? Why might you struggle to consistently thank Jesus for His sacrifice? How can you increase your gratitude?
3. When have you felt abandoned by God (15:34)? How does knowing that God will never forsake you affect your daily life? What scriptures can you meditate on when God feels distant?
4. How does the tearing of the temple curtain (15:38) encourage you to approach God with freedom and confidence (15:38)? Who in your life needs to hear that God is not distant or unreachable? How will you share this truth with them?
5. In what ways have you become too familiar or complacent with the cross? How does the cross impact your daily struggles with guilt, shame, or self-worth? Is there any area of your life where you're trying to earn God's acceptance instead of resting in Jesus' finished work?

RECOMMENDED READING

John R. W. Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (InterVarsity, 1986)
Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross* (Eerdmans, 1955)
C. J. Mahaney, *Living the Cross-Centered Life* (Multnomah, 2006)
Jerry Bridges, *The Gospel for Real Life* (NavPress, 2002)
John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ* (Crossway, 2004)