

“A Crucified Man”

Summary

This powerful message confronts us with a challenging but transformative truth: Jesus was already crucified in His identity before He ever hung on the physical cross. The series continues exploring the question the disciples asked when Jesus calmed the storm—'What manner of man is this?'—and reveals that He was a man who lived in complete surrender from the foundation of the world. Drawing from Revelation 13:8, we discover that Jesus was 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,' meaning His sacrifice was embedded in His very DNA. This same reality applies to us as believers. According to Galatians 2:20, we too have been crucified with Christ, and we're called to walk out this crucified life daily. The message challenges our Western Christianity that has divorced itself from the cross, seeking comfort and avoiding pain at all costs. Yet scripture is clear: assignment and sacrifice are inseparable. We've been predestined for certain works according to Ephesians 2:10, but those works require power—and that power only comes after we've died to ourselves. The cross deals with our tendency to be impressed with ourselves, safeguarding God's power for God's glory. Through the story of Peter's journey from self-reliance to martyrdom, we see that maturity means learning to say 'not my will, but Yours.' This isn't a message of condemnation but of hope—the same grace we find each day will empower us at the end of our lives to fulfill whatever God has called us to do.

Small Group Study Guide – A Crucified Man

What Manner of Man Is This? - Session 16

Opening Prayer & Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Ice Breaker Question: Share a time when you had to do something you really didn't want to do, but looking back, you're glad you did it. What made you push through?

Key Scripture Passages

- Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus calming the storm)

- Galatians 2:20 - "I am crucified with Christ..."
 - Matthew 16:24 - "Take up your cross and follow me"
 - Philippians 3:10 - "The fellowship of his sufferings"
 - 1 Peter 2:18-24 - Christ's example in suffering
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Main Themes & Key Takeaways

1. Jesus Was Crucified Before He Was Crucified

- Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8)
- The cross was a way of life for Jesus, not just an event
- His daily surrender ("not my will, but yours") empowered Him for the ultimate sacrifice

2. We Too Have Been Crucified with Christ

- Our crucifixion is past tense (Galatians 2:20)
- We have preordained works to accomplish (Ephesians 2:10)
- Assignment and sacrifice are inseparable

3. No Cross, No Power

- God's power must be safeguarded for God's glory
- The cross deals with our tendency to be impressed with ourselves
- Power comes after death to self—resurrection power follows crucifixion

4. The Message (Logos) of the Cross

- Without the cross, we miss the "reason why" of everything
 - Western Christianity has divorced itself from the message of the cross
 - We celebrate Jesus' cross but resist our own
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message (20 minutes)

1. **Pastor Rob said, "Every time we see Jesus as He is, there's power in that moment to change us into the same image."** What does it mean to see Jesus "as He is" versus making Jesus into our own image?
2. **Read Galatians 2:20 together.** How can we be "crucified with Christ" and yet still be alive? What does this paradox mean practically?

3. **The sermon emphasized that "assignment and sacrifice go hand in hand."** Why do you think God designed it this way? Why can't we have the assignment without the cross?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

4. **Pastor Rob shared that it's okay to say "I don't want to do it" as long as we follow with "nevertheless, not my will but yours."** When was the last time you had this honest conversation with God? What happened?
5. **"God's power must be safeguarded for God's glory."** Discuss how the cross protects us from pride when God uses us powerfully. Can you think of biblical examples of this principle?
6. **The milk cows illustration** showed animals going against their natural instincts while "lowing" (mooing) as they went. Have you ever felt like you were obeying God but "mooing" through it? Is that okay? Why or why not?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

7. **Read 1 Peter 2:18-24.** This passage talks about suffering wrongfully and taking it patiently. How does this apply to modern life? What's the difference between suffering because of our own foolishness versus "suffering according to the will of God"?
8. **Pastor Rob said, "We have a Christianity void of suffering, a Christianity that cushions every possible moment."** Do you agree? How has the Western church tried to avoid the message of the cross? What are the consequences?
9. **"The fellowship of His sufferings" (Philippians 3:10)** means Jesus comes near to us in our suffering. Have you experienced this? Share a time when you felt Jesus' presence most powerfully during a difficult season.

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Morning Surrender Prayer**
 - Start each day with: "Good morning, Lord. I love You. Not my will, but Yours be done today."
 - Journal about what God asks you to surrender each day
2. **Identify Your Cross**
 - Ask the Holy Spirit: "What is my specific cross right now?"
 - This isn't about your spouse or circumstances—it's about where YOU need to die to self
 - Write it down and pray about it daily
3. **Silent Surrender**

- Practice 1 Peter 2:23 - when you're treated unfairly or criticized this week, don't defend yourself or "moo" about it to others
 - Instead, "commit yourself to Him who judges righteously"
 - Keep a record of how this changes your perspective
4. **Study Assignment and Sacrifice**
- Reflect on your life calling/assignment
 - Ask God: "What sacrifice is attached to this assignment?"
 - Write out both and pray for grace to embrace both
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Accountability Questions

- What area of surrender is God highlighting in your life right now?
 - Where are you most tempted to "tap out" currently?
 - How can this group pray for you specifically regarding taking up your cross?
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Closing Reflection

Read together:

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps." (1 Peter 2:21)

Final Thought: Pastor Rob reminded us that we find the grace we need by walking the walk each day, not just in climactic moments. God is imparting "grace upon grace" to bring us to the image where we'll have what we need when we need it.

Closing Prayer Focus:

- Fresh eyes to see the joy set before us
- Grace to say "not my will, but Yours"
- Freedom from self-life that we might find real life
- Power that comes through surrender, not self-effort

Main Points – A Crucified Man

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the profound truth that Jesus lived as a crucified man before He physically hung on the cross, and that believers are called to the same crucified life. The message emphasizes that genuine Christian power flows only through the pathway of death to self. Drawing from the series "What Manner of Man Is This," Pastor Rob teaches that we are being conformed to Jesus' image, which includes being conformed to His death. The sermon challenges modern Christianity's tendency to avoid the message of the cross, explaining that God's power must be safeguarded for God's glory through our daily surrender. Each believer has been preordained for specific works that require divine power, but this power is only released after we take up our cross. The crucified life is not a one-time event but a daily choice to say "not my will, but Yours" in every situation. The message concludes with the hope that enduring the cross leads to resurrection power and the fulfillment of our God-given assignments.

Key Points:

- Jesus was crucified from the foundation of the world before His physical crucifixion
- Believers are already crucified with Christ in past tense, yet must walk out this reality daily
- Every Christian has preordained works to accomplish that were established before the foundation of the world
- Assignment and sacrifice are inseparable; our unique calling requires a unique cross
- God's power must be safeguarded for God's glory through the cross
- The cross deals with our tendency to be impressed with ourselves
- No cross means no power; no death to self means no resurrection life
- The message (logos) of the cross is the reason why behind everything
- We must follow Jesus daily; He will make us what we need to be
- Taking up our cross is not automatic but requires daily choices of surrender
- Modern Christianity has divorced itself from the true message of the cross
- The daily sacrifice is about dying to our own desires, will, and ways
- When we suffer according to God's will and take it patiently, it is commendable before God
- The same grace we find each day empowers us for whatever the end of our life may look like

Scripture Reference:

- Mark 4:35-41 (the storm on the sea and "What manner of man is this?")
- 1 John 3:2 (we shall be like Him when we see Him as He is)
- Romans 8:28-29 (all things working together to conform us to the image of the Son)
- Revelation 13:8 (the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world)
- Galatians 2:20 (I am crucified with Christ)
- Ephesians 1:3-4 (chosen before the foundation of the world)
- Ephesians 2:10 (created for good works prepared beforehand)

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 (the message/logos of the cross is the power of God)
- Matthew 16:21-26 (Peter's rebuke and Jesus' teaching on taking up the cross)
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (My strength is made perfect in weakness)
- Philippians 3:10 (the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings)
- 1 Peter 4:19 (suffering according to the will of God)
- John 21:18 (Jesus prophesying Peter's death)
- Hebrews 12:1-3 (looking to Jesus who endured the cross for the joy set before Him)
- 1 Peter 2:18-25 (suffering patiently when doing good)
- 1 Corinthians 15 (Paul's statement "I die daily")

Discussion Questions – A Crucified Man

Pastor Rob emphasizes that Jesus was already crucified in his DNA before the physical event at Calvary. How does understanding that Christ was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world change your perspective on God's commitment to your redemption?

Paul writes in Galatians 2:20 that he is crucified with Christ, yet he lives. What does it practically look like in your daily life to be simultaneously dead to self and alive in Christ?

The sermon states that assignment and sacrifice go hand in hand, and that God has preordained specific works for each believer that require power only found after death to self. What unique assignment do you sense God has given you, and what cross or sacrifice might be attached to it?

Pastor Rob argues that God safeguards His power by requiring the cross, preventing us from taking credit for what only He can do. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to be impressed with yourself rather than with Jesus?

Jesus told Peter that when you were young you went where you wished, but when you are old another will carry you where you do not wish. How does this progression from self-will to surrender reflect spiritual maturity in your own journey?

The illustration of the two milk cows carrying the Ark while lowing in discomfort yet not turning aside is powerful. Can you identify a season when you had to move forward in obedience against your natural desires, and what did that teach you about God's presence?

The message warns against a Christianity that has divorced itself from the message of the cross, seeking comfort over transformation. Where do you see Western Christianity cushioning believers from necessary suffering, and how might this be robbing the church of power?

Paul discovered that God's strength is made perfect in weakness, yet we naturally resist vulnerability and lack of control. What situation in your life right now is exposing your weakness, and how might God be inviting you to experience His strength through it?

Pastor Rob mentions that saying not my will but yours does not make you guilty for being honest about not wanting to do something. How can we cultivate a practice of honest conversation with God about our resistance while still choosing surrender?

The sermon connects the daily sacrifice that Daniel prophesied would be taken away with Paul's statement that he dies daily. How does understanding the cross as a daily lifestyle rather than a one-time event change your approach to following Jesus in this present age?

Scriptures – A Crucified Man

Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. **Mark 4:35-41** (implied) - Jesus calming the storm, disciples asking "What manner of man is this?"
2. **1 John 3:2** - "Behold, we are the sons of God... when he appears, we shall be like him"
3. **Romans 8:28-29** - "All things work together for good... predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son"
4. **Revelation 13:8** - "The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"
5. **Galatians 2:20** - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live"
6. **Ephesians 1:3-4** - "Chosen us in him before the foundation of the world"
7. **Ephesians 2:10** - "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works"
8. **1 Corinthians 1:18** - "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing"
9. **John 1:1** (implied) - "In the beginning was the Word (logos)"
10. **2 Corinthians 12:9** - "My grace is sufficient for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness"
11. **Philippians 3:10** - "That I might know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings"
12. **1 Peter 4:19** - "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls"
13. **Matthew 16:21-26** - Peter rebuking Jesus about going to Jerusalem; "Get behind me, Satan"; "Take up your cross and follow me"
14. **1 Samuel 6:10-14** - The two milk cows carrying the Ark of the Covenant
15. **John 21:18-19** - Jesus telling Peter about his future death; "Follow me"
16. **Matthew 21:28-31** (implied) - Parable of the two sons
17. **Hebrews 12:1-3** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross"
18. **1 Peter 2:18-25** - "Servants, be submissive... Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example"
19. **1 Corinthians 15:31** - "I die daily"
20. **Daniel 12:11** (implied) - "The daily sacrifice" and "abomination of desolation"
21. **Matthew 24:15** (implied) - Jesus referencing Daniel's "abomination of desolation"

Devotional – A Crucified Man

Day 1: The Crucified Life Before the Cross

Reading: Galatians 2:20; Revelation 13:8

Devotional: Jesus was crucified before He was crucified—slain from the foundation of the world. This profound truth reveals that surrender wasn't just an event for Christ; it was His eternal identity. When He stood in the boat and calmed the storm, He was already living a crucified life. For us, this means our identity in Christ isn't just about a past decision, but a present reality. We have been crucified with Christ, yet we live. This paradox holds the key to supernatural power. Today, recognize that your transformation isn't waiting for some future moment of complete surrender—it begins now, in this present moment, as you embrace your identity as one who has already been crucified with Christ.

Day 2: The Fellowship of His Sufferings

Reading: Philippians 3:10-11; 1 Peter 4:19

Devotional: There exists a sacred fellowship available only in suffering—a nearness to Jesus found nowhere else. When Paul spoke of "the fellowship of His sufferings," he wasn't describing misery but intimacy. In our culture that cushions every discomfort, we've lost access to this holy ground where Jesus draws especially near. Not all suffering is redemptive; some comes from foolish choices. But suffering "according to the will of God" creates a meeting place with Jesus that transforms us. Like those milk cows in 1 Samuel, moving against every natural instinct while "lowing as they went," we too can carry God's presence forward even when it hurts. In your pain today, don't just endure—look for Jesus there.

Day 3: Preordained Works and Necessary Power

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-4; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9

Devotional: Before the foundation of the world, God prepared specific works for you to accomplish. These aren't generic good deeds but unique assignments requiring supernatural power. Here's the divine paradox: the power needed for your assignment only comes after death—death to self. God safeguards His power for His glory. If He released miracle-working power before we learned to carry the cross, we'd steal the glory. Paul discovered this when God said, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." Your weakness isn't a problem to overcome but a doorway to divine power. The cross kills our need to be seen and celebrated. Today, identify one area where you're striving in your own strength, and surrender it completely to God.

Day 4: Not My Will, But Yours

Reading: Matthew 16:21-26; Luke 22:42; John 21:18-19

Devotional: Jesus modeled honest surrender in Gethsemane: "If possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours." There's no condemnation for being human enough to say, "I don't want to do this." God isn't offended by honesty. The power lies in what comes next: "Nevertheless." Peter learned this journey from self-will to surrender. Jesus told him, "When you were young, you went where you wished. When you're old, another will carry you where you don't wish." Maturity means choosing God's will over your preferences. You won't find strength for tomorrow's cross in tomorrow—you find it by picking up today's cross. The grace that sustains you in daily surrender is the same grace that will carry you through life's greatest challenges.

Day 5: The Joy Set Before Us

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3; Romans 8:28-29

Devotional: Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him." He saw beyond the immediate suffering to the eternal reward. We need this same vision—an awakening to what's coming. All things are working together to conform us to Jesus' image, but transformation requires our cooperation. We must "lay aside every weight" and "run with endurance," keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. The cross you carry isn't your spouse, your job, or your circumstances—it's your unique assignment to surrender self-will for God's will. Consider Him who endured such hostility, lest you grow weary. Beyond today's difficulty lies resurrection power, eternal reward, and the joy of becoming like Jesus. Your daily surrender is building something eternal that will far outweigh any temporary discomfort.