



Icon - Part 4

The authorities of Jesus’s time viewed his entire ethos as baffling— Kings put other people on crosses. They weren’t supposed to end up there, themselves. And for those who came to believe in Jesus, following this kind of “loser” King was risky. After all, it required a person to pretty much give up on every value that had been prominent in the Roman world, in favor of something so contrary to our nature that we are tempted to dismiss it— complete sacrifice. This empowering invitation to an alternative lifestyle can be equally offensive in contemporary culture, even among Christians. And yet, it is precisely what is required of those who would follow Jesus.

Getting Started

1. How do you do when it comes to resting? What are your go-to strategies for recovering from labor?

What About You?

2. Do you have any “most embarrassing moments” that you can now laugh about?
3. Think about your formative experiences with faith. Were you ever conditioned to see the cross as more of a good luck charm than invitation to an “upside down” way of living?
4. What parts of the value system that Jesus called, “the Kingdom of God,” do you find most difficult to live out? What parts of your self do you feel revolting against Jesus’s invitation?



Look It Up

Mark 10:32 – 45.

5. What do you think motivated James and John's question to Jesus? What does it reveal about their inner lives? What they thought would happen in Jerusalem?
6. How do you think a first century person's reaction to the imagery of a cross would differ from ours? What would they see in this image that we might not?
7. What issue did Jesus have with the kingdoms of this world? What were his primary modifications to the way power worked in these kingdoms?
8. How do you understand the phrase, "a ransom for many?"

Putting It All Together

9. What opportunities will you have to give your life away this week? What will you do to be on the lookout for them?
10. Where do you anticipate the attitude of James and John creeping in this week? In your personal relationships? Work situation? Family dynamics? How can you pray about this in advance?
11. Are there any particular resources you've been entrusted with right now? What are some creative ways you could leverage them for other people?

