

WEEK 4: THE SOLUTION: REDEMPTION

Core Truth: Through Jesus, God redeems us as image-bearers and starts the dawn of new creation.

Key Bible Verses:

Isaiah 53:1-12; Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 12:1-22

New City Catechism: Qs 24, 26, and 50

In Jesus, God chooses condescension into the depths, into the far country. God chooses humiliation, lowliness, and obedience. In this way God illuminates the darkness, opening up that which is closed. In this way God brings help where there is no other help.
-Karl Barth

Review/Recall:

1. Sin is placing our identity in something else other than God's story.
2. Sin tarnishes image-bearers by causes what three things?
3. What does shame cause us to do?
4. God still longs for us to be his image-bearers?

1. Jesus does what we couldn't do: he is the true image-bearer.

- Jesus puts his entire identity and purpose in God's story.

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." **4** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **6** "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. **9** "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." **10** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" **11** Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

- To learn who God is: we look at Jesus. (Col. 1:15-16)
- To learn how to be an image-bearer: we look at Jesus. (Heb. 12:1-2)

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2. Jesus enters into darkness in order to redeem us.

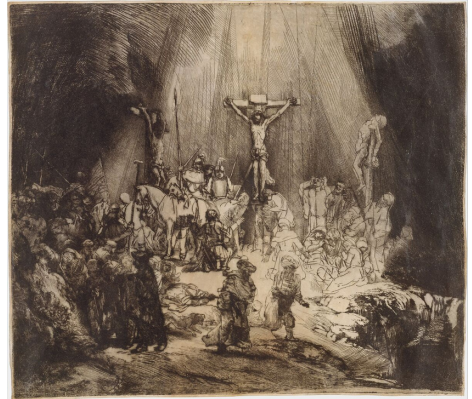
- Jesus enters our shame, broken relationships, and death.

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Christ Crucified between the Two Thieves: The Three Crosses

Rembrandt van Rijn (1653)

3. Jesus' resurrection is the dawn of the new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

4. Through Jesus, we can rediscover our identity as image-bearers.

- By confessing our sins - turning away from false identities
- By placing our faith in Jesus - finding our true identity
- By learning to live like Jesus - finding our true purpose

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Discussion Questions

1. Which of the Devil's temptations in Matt. 4 would have appealed to you most? Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus was "tempted in every way, just as we are." How could this influence how we relate to Jesus and ask for his help?

2. Which of the three things that we discussed—shame, broken relationships, or death—are you most thankful that Jesus entered into for us?

3. What is one thing you've learned from Jesus? What is one thing that you'd like to learn from him over the next year?