



THE WONDERFUL CROSS

Discussion Guide: Victory Over Sickness

Theme: Exploring the cost of our healing and the tension between God's power to heal now and the ultimate healing of the resurrection.

I. The Substitution: We Are Barabbas

Read Matthew 27:15–26

In the sermon, we saw the stark contrast between Barabbas (a taker of life) and Jesus (the Author of Life). Pilate offered a choice, and the people chose the insurrectionist.

1. **The Mirror:** We often treat Barabbas as a minor historical figure. How does the idea that "We are Barabbas" change your perspective on your own salvation?
2. **The Cell:** If Jesus "entered the cell" of our sin so we could walk free, how should that freedom practically change the way we live this week?

II. The Scourging: The Cost of the Curse

Read 1 Peter 2:24 and Isaiah 53:5

The transition from the trial to the cross happened at the Pillar of Scourging. The Roman *flagrum* was designed to bring a person to the edge of death before the crucifixion even began.

1. **The Stripes:** The Hebrew word for "wounds/stripes" is *chabburah* (welts). Why do you think God chose to include physical scourging in the price Jesus paid, rather than just the death on the cross?
2. **The Matzah Connection:** Think about the Passover Matzah—pierced and striped so it doesn't rise (representing sin/pride). How does this "visual aid" help you understand the "chastisement that brought us peace"?

III. The Sickness: The "Already and Not Yet"

Read Matthew 8:16–17 and James 5:14–16

The sermon addressed the difficult reality of Jeremy's passing while affirming that "by His wounds we are healed."

1. **The Authority:** In Luke 9:1-2, Jesus gave His disciples authority to heal. Why is it important for the church to still pray the "prayer of faith" for healing today, even when we don't always see the result we want?
2. **The Tension:** We see Paul leave Trophimus sick (2 Tim 4:20) and Timothy struggling with "frequent ailments" (1 Tim 5:23). How do these examples help us navigate the "Not Yet" of the Kingdom when our prayers for healing aren't answered immediately?
3. **The Ultimate Healing:** The sermon concluded by saying Jeremy is now fully healed in a way we can hardly comprehend. How does the promise of the **resurrection** change the way we grieve as Christians?

IV. Application: Bold Requests

1. **Ask and Keep Asking:** Jesus invites us to make bold requests. Is there a "big faith" request you've been hesitant to bring to God because you're afraid of being disappointed? How can the group pray for you in that area today?

Closing Prayer

- **Pray for Jeremy's family:** Ask for the "peace that passes understanding."
- **Pray for those currently sick:** Use the model of James 5—anointing and praying the prayer of faith.
- **Acknowledge Sovereignty:** Thank God that His grace is sufficient in our weakness, just as He told Paul.