



# THE BIG DEAL

## STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

The cross of Christ isn't something to be taken lightly. Moreover, it's quite a divisive thing. Some people are unaffected by it, even wearing it as bling, but as soon as you mention the significance of the symbol, they often dismiss it. Others are befuddled that anyone would want to walk around wearing a grotesque symbol of torture. Christians, however know it's so much more! (*Convo inspiration: The Cross in Four Words*, by Kevin DeYoung, Richard Coekin and Yannick Christos-Wahab)

YOUR HOSTS: Mike and Heather Zander

**GUEST PASTOR: CHAD JOHNSON, FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH LINDON UT**

### SYMBOL OF JUSTICE

Everyone wants justice, just not for themselves. Or so the quote goes. But this begs the question – justice for what? In a world where truth is relative and every individual holds to their own reality, justice is irrelevant. That is, until someone infringes on another person's "rights." Then the gloves are off.

### QUESTIONS

- Before we discuss justice, we must first define the injustice and its source. Some call those "mistakes", others, "transgressions." The Bible calls it sin. Definitions are important so let's start there.
- How is God's justice a good thing? How is God's justice a terrifying thing?
- According to the book of Isaiah, Christ was pierced for our transgression – our sin. How is this just?
- Was Jesus a victim of abuse, or at best a "reluctant" savior?
- Kevin DeYoung asserted, "Don't think that God's love is just a result of the cross. God's love is what led to the cross." Why? (see John 3:16, 1 John 4:10, Romans 5:8)
- How does Jesus' death on the cross guarantee our salvation, that we have been "justified?"
- How does the empty tomb satisfy us that Jesus's payment "took" and that God's demand for justice was satisfied?

**SPRINGBOARD VERSE**

Romans 3:23-26 ESV for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.