

Name Above All Names [Good Friday] Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon focuses on Jesus' crucifixion and the profound paradox of the cross - that the name above all names was proclaimed even in Jesus' moment of greatest humiliation. Jonathan explores how Jesus willingly gave His life to pay the debt of sin that humanity could never pay, breaking the barrier between us and God when the temple curtain was torn. The message emphasizes that through Christ's sacrifice, believers have been crucified with Christ and raised to new life, no longer slaves to sin but alive to God. The sermon challenges listeners to live in the reality of this transformation, motivated not by fear or obligation, but by the overwhelming love of Jesus who died for them.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, ready to encounter Your truth through Your Word. As we gather together, we ask that You open our minds and soften our hearts to receive what You desire to speak to us today. Help us to truly understand the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and what it means for our lives. We pray that You would use this time to draw us closer to You and to one another. Give us ears to hear Your invitation and the faith to respond. Holy Spirit, guide our discussion and help us apply Your truth to our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one name (could be a person, place, or brand) that immediately brings a strong memory or feeling to mind when you hear it?

Key Verses

- 1 John 2:2
- Matthew 27:27-56
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Romans 6:6-11
- Galatians 2:20

Questions

- Jonathan described sin as an impossible debt we could never pay. How does understanding sin this way change your perspective on what Jesus did for you on the cross?
- Jesus didn't display His power through dominance, through force, or by destroying His enemies... but by laying down his life for those who don't deserve it. What does this paradox teach us about how God's power is displayed differently than worldly power?
- The women stayed with Jesus at the cross when everyone else fled, and they became the first witnesses of His resurrection. How does their faithfulness encourage you in times when following Jesus feels costly?
- When the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, it symbolized direct access to God. How should this reality impact your prayer life and relationship with God?
- Paul says we have been 'crucified with Christ' (past tense). What does it mean practically to 'consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God'?

- Jonathan mentioned that being dead to sin isn't easy while living in our fleshly bodies. How can we walk in the freedom Christ gave us while still struggling with sin?
- What motivates Paul to live his transformed life according to Galatians 2:20? How can remembering Jesus' love for you motivate your daily choices?
- The sermon emphasized that salvation involves both belief and surrender. What areas of your life might God be calling you to surrender more fully to Him?

Life Application

This week, when you face temptation or struggle with sin, pause and remember that Jesus loved you enough to die for you. Instead of trying to overcome sin in your own strength, remind yourself that you have been crucified with Christ and that He lives in you. Choose to live from the reality of your new identity rather than your old patterns. Consider starting each day by declaring: 'I am dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.'

Key Takeaways

- Jesus paid the impossible debt of sin that we could never pay ourselves, serving as the perfect sacrifice that atones for our sins.
- The paradox of the cross shows that true power is demonstrated through sacrifice and love, not dominance or force.
- When Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn, giving us direct access to God and breaking the barrier that sin had created.

- As believers, we have been crucified with Christ and raised to new life... this is a present reality, not just a future hope.
- Walking in freedom from sin is motivated by love and gratitude for what Jesus did, not by fear or obligation.

Ending Prayer

Father, thank You for the incredible love You demonstrated through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We are overwhelmed by the reality that You were willing to die for us because You didn't want heaven without us. Help us to live each day in the truth that we have been crucified with Christ and that it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us. When we struggle with sin, remind us of Your great love and the freedom You purchased for us. Give us the strength to choose daily to die to ourselves and live for You. May our lives be a reflection of the transformation You have worked in our hearts. In Jesus' precious and holy name we pray, Amen.