

Community Group Notes for Sunday 4th October 2009

“In”

What are you going to do with the Cross? Mark 15:21-47

On Sunday we looked at the final moments of Jesus' life from Mark's gospel and looked at 4 things in particular.

1. The Cross as the Fulfilment of Old Testament Prophecy

Jesus' death was not simply the product of public opinion and a hostile Jewish leadership but part of God's eternal plan. Jesus' death and the nature of it was predicted throughout the Old Testament. More details below

2. The terrible cost of the Cross

Jesus suffered emotionally and physically in his death but also spiritually as HE face the wrath of His Father (2 Corinthians 5:21)

3. The way to God is now open

The curtain that separated man from the presence of God has been removed. Because of the death of Jesus we are righteous.

4. The response of those watching

The cross divides. It causes some to be in opposition to Jesus and for others it was an object of faith (1 Corinthians 1:18). What response are you going to make?

Group Questions

If you have not shared bread & wine together as a group for while now would be a good time to do so.

1. On Sunday we saw the vital importance and centrality of the cross of Jesus to our Christian lives. What sort of things do you do to keep the cross at the centre of your life? Shares stories and ideas with one another.
2. What books have you read about the cross that you can recommend – how have they helped you to worship?
3. Look at the list below of who we are in Jesus because of the cross. Spend some time worshipping God and thanking Him for this truth and enjoying what Jesus has done for us.

“Out” by Melanie Crane

It's a full term and we want to help you make the most of the events we have planned. Here is what we think you should do in your group this week...

Alpha, Try Church and Murder Mystery happen in October so have a **THINK** now about who to invite to which. Murder Mystery would suit any of your friends who want a good night out but hurry as the tickets are just £10 and will sell out fast. Try Church is excellent for any of your friends who are ready to try church – does what it says on the tin! Alpha is perfect for anyone asking questions about your faith or the Christian faith – we already have 10 guests. **ASK** the right people to the right events. For any help with this ask me!!!

Events Coming Up...

Sunday 18 October – **TRY CHURCH** 6:30pm with water baptisms and the Gospel Choir – the event theme is **FREEDOM!!!**

Saturday 24 October – **Murder Mystery** 8pm at the Charis Centre

Saturday 31 October – **Me 'n' Dad** 10:30am at the Charis Centre

This Sunday...

Melanie Crane will be speaking

Notes from Sermon

Prophecies of Jesus fulfilled in Cross

Jesus' death was not simply the product of public opinion and a hostile Jewish leadership but part of God's eternal plan. Jesus' death and the nature of it was predicted throughout the Old Testament. Here are some examples:

- Dividing of garments by casting lots - Mark 15:24 see Psalm 22:16-18
- Crucified with robbers - Mark 15:27 see Isaiah 53:12
- Shaking of heads and mockery – Mark 15:29-32 see Psalm 22:7-8
- Cry of dereliction – Mark 15:34 see Psalm 22:1
- Given Wine vinegar to drink – Mark 15:36 see Psalm 69:21

Some good books on the Cross

For those who would like to learn more about the cross here are some books to get you started. The one by Stott is an excellent theological work for the cross and its implications. The Mahaney and Piper ones are shorter more devotional works that are packed with truth. The Driscoll book takes aspects of the work of Jesus on the cross such as expiation and propitiation and applies them to real life pastoral situations it is a thoroughly practical work.

The Cross of Christ – John Stott

The Cross Centred Life – CJ Mahaney

Death by Love – Mark Driscoll

Passion of the Christ – John Piper

Who we are in Jesus because of the Cross

I am a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am Born Again (John 3:7)

I am a Child of God (1 John 3:1)

I am Adopted into his family (Romans 8:15)

I am a Coheir with Christ (Romans 8:17)

Everything God gives to Christ is mine too (Romans 8:17)

Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Jesus (Romans 8:39)

I am Dearly Loved and Filled with his Love (Romans 5:5)

I am a Friend of God/Reconciled to God (Romans 5:11)

I am made in the Image and Likeness of God (Genesis 1:26)

I am Fearfully and Wonderfully made (Psalm 139)

I am in Christ and he is in me (John 14:20)

I have Eternal Life in Jesus (Romans 6:23)

I am One with Christ - I have been baptised into him (Romans 6:3)

I am a Saint (Ephesians 1:1)

I am Royalty (1 Peter 2:9)

I am Chosen/Predestined (Romans 8:29)

I am Called (Romans 8:30)

I am Holy and Blameless (Colossians 1:22)

I have Died to Sin (Romans 6:2)

I am Free from Sin/Justified (Romans 3:24)

I am Right with God/Righteous (Romans 3:25)

I have Peace with God through Jesus (Romans 5:1)

There is no Condemnation for me (Romans 8:1)

I am seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6)

I am part of Christ's body (Romans 12:5)

I am Commissioned by Christ (Matthew 28:19)

I am a Citizen of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)

I am an Ambassador of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)

I have an Inheritance in him (Ephesians 1:11)

I am being Transformed into the Image and Likeness of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18)