

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 08.20.2023

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS - John 19:16-30

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “Go anywhere in the world and hold up a cross and people will immediately know who you are talking about and what that symbol means. As far as logos go, the cross is a curious choice. No marketing firm or consultancy group would have suggested using it. Today, we wear crosses as jewelry and adorn our homes and churches with them. However, if you were to go back to the first century, nobody was wearing a cross as a fashion statement. It was an instrument of torture and death. So, how did this ancient form of execution come to serve as the identifying symbol of the movement we call Christianity? That’s what we’re going to talk about today.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. Do you think we have a sanitized version of the cross in our mindsets today? Why?
3. Why is it important that we dig into the true ugliness of the cross?

The cross is offensive. And yet its offense is the center of the theology of the Christian church. Though we might be tempted to play down some of the brutality involved in the crucifixion of Jesus, we must instead choose to see the cross for what it is—God’s punishment of sin for our sake.

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 19:16-22

1. Who bore the cross? 19:17 (Compare Matthew 27:32) What does that say about Jesus’ condition?
2. Where and with whom was Jesus crucified? (See Mark 15:27) (Compare the prophecy in Psalm 22:16,17; Isaiah 53:12)

John spares the gore, only mentioning the fact of Jesus’ crucifixion. This was because the agony of crucifixion was well known to the people of Jesus’ day. In addition, the true ordeal of the cross was more spiritual than physical. Jesus was made . . . sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21) and the wrath of God we deserved was poured out upon Him. This is a type and degree of suffering that is simply incomprehensible.” - David Guzik

“The crucifixion was mentioned in the fewest possible words. John, who alone of all the disciples witnessed it, said the least about it...in a day when crucifixion was still a current method of execution, it would have been too familiar to need description and too horrible a thought to deserve elaboration.”

3. How does the cross reveal the holiness of God?
4. Why is it important that we as Christians see God’s holiness as His central attribute?

“PROMISES” in 2023

Holiness is the primary attribute of God. All His other attributes, whether love, goodness, mercy, or justice, all filter through His holiness. Seeing this makes us realize the terrible cost of sin, which is an offense to God’s holiness. The brutality of the cross shines the spotlight on the holiness of God, revealing the price that had to be paid for us.

5. Underline what Christ became or did for us on the cross.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. NIV

• **Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." NIV

• **John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! NIV

• **Romans 8:3** For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering...NIV

• **2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. NIV

• **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." NIV

• **Ephesians 5:2** and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

• **1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. NIV

• **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. NIV

6. Why did the Jews object to Pilate’s inscription on the cross (19:19)? 19:20-22

AS A GROUP READ JOHN 19:23-30.

1. What prophecy did the soldiers ‘fulfill?’ 19:23,24 (Compare Psalm 22:18) (Mark the word “fulfill” in 18:9,32; 19:24,28,36)
2. What did Jesus say at this point? Luke 23:22,34

“The tunic was without seam: Jesus’ seamless tunic reminds us of His role as our great High Priest, because Exodus 28:31-32 tells us that the High Priest wore a seamless garment.”

3. Who was at the cross? 19:25,26a (see also Mark 15:40,41; Luke 23:49)
4. What was one of Jesus’ final acts? 19:26b,27 (Why do you think Jesus asked John to take care of His mother, instead of one His brothers? John 7:3-5)
5. After refusing to drink earlier (see Matthew 27:34,48), why did Jesus ask for one at the end? 19:28-30 (Compare Psalm 22:15; 69:21)

“I thirst” indicated Jesus’ deep participation in human suffering. He endured the terrible thirst that accompanied crucifixion as a token of His voluntary sharing in all human woe. The ‘vinegar’ which was given to Him was the cheap sour wine which the common soldiers drank, sharp in taste and astringent in quality. Paradoxically enough, He who had offered to all men the water of life (4:14, 7:37,38) died thirsting.”

1. How did Jesus die? 19:30b (Compare John 10:17,18)
2. Relate the words “It is finished” (19:30) to John 4:34; Colossians 2:14,15 and Romans 6:10.

“PROMISES” in 2023

“Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with tetelestai written across them, meaning ‘paid in full.’ With Jesus’ last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied.” - Charles Swindoll (334)

“Jesus’ final word...is the cry of a winner. Jesus had finished the eternal purpose of the cross. It stands today as a finished work, the foundation of all Christian peace and faith, paying in full the debt we righteously owe to God. – David Guzik

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Just before Jesus died, He spoke a sixth time and said, ‘It is finished.’ Mark tells us that He cried out with a loud voice. This was not the last gasp of a dying victim but rather, the triumphant cry of someone who had overcome! This was the word of victory. What takes three words in English is just one word in the original language. It is the word “tetelestai.” It was a common word in that day. You would use it after completing a job. If you framed a house and you finished the job, you’d say “tetelestai.” It’s also the word a painter would use after he put the finishing touches on a masterpiece. And it’s the word a banker would stamp on a bill that had been paid off. Jesus said ‘It is finished’ to let you know that death has been defeated and the price has been paid and the power of the devil has been broken and the work of securing your salvation has been finished! Finally, having finished the work, Jesus said, ‘Into Thy hands I commit My spirit.’

1. What is personally meaningful to you about the phrase, “It is finished”?
2. Why is it significant that the Bible tells us Jesus “gave up” His spirit?
3. How does today’s session help you explain the brutality of the cross to someone else?
4. How are you actively going to remind yourself of the great price Jesus paid this week?

PRAYER: Pray to close your group, thanking Jesus for His willing sacrifice. Ask the Lord to help you dwell deeply on the reality of the cross so that you might truly appreciate the beauty of the empty tomb.

‘For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.’ {Hebrews 4:15}