

Sunday, April 9, 2017 - "Three Crosses" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Luke 23:39-49

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Jesus is put on trial and actually found not guilty
 - But he is given over to be crucified
 - He is beaten so bad that he is not recognizable as a man
- One of the greatest challenges of following God
 - Not to allow the amazing story of Jesus to become "normal"
 - It should cause us to set back and go "wow"
 - Familiarity breeds complacency and we want to keep the familiar spectacular in this season
- Why are there 3 crosses? Why does 1 cross mean more than every other?
 - To fulfill prophecy in scripture
 - The Old testament points to the cross. The New testament is a commentary about the cross
 - The crosses are a picture/understanding of the destiny of mankind (1 Corinthians 2:2)
- 1st Cross
 - The criminal knows that he is going to die and his heart is hardened
 - The 1st cross represents **REBELLION**
 - Any time we know what we should do and don't do it, or when we know what we should not do and do it anyway
 - Sin takes all kinds of form BUT sin is rebellion
 - When we're confronted we get defensive and make excuses
 - With his last breath the 1st criminal was rebellious
- 2nd Cross
 - The criminal admits and knows his guilt but says "Remember me"
 - He is the **ONLY** person who sees Jesus for who He truly is
 - 2nd cross represents **REPENTANCE**
 - There is hope and comfort because the cross is way bigger than our sin
- The cross was the moment everything changed
 - Between God & man
 - Presence of God no longer confined to one place
 - **NEW COVENANT**
 - Jesus' cross is **RECONCILIATION**
- Cross of Reconciliation should be the focus of our meditation and much more than a theological truth
 - Our ransom paid (Mark 10:45)
 - God's justice satisfied (Romans 3:25)
 - Price for the church (Acts 20:28)
 - Sacrifice to end all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:12)
- We can not right the wrongs or make amends, but we are reconciled to God through Jesus

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Is the story of Jesus still spectacular to you? Explain why or why not?
2. What are some of the ways that rebellion comes out in you?
3. How are you doing in being obedient to repent? What is God teaching you about repentance?
4. What would it look like for the cross to become "the focus of your meditation" and "more than a theological truth" in your life?
5. How does the cross affect your relationship with God and with others? How should it affect your relationship with God and others?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan - Mon: Isaiah 50:4-9a Tues: Psalm 31:9-16 Wed: Philippians 2:5-11 Thurs: John 11:1-45 Fri: Matthew 27**

****5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**