



March 22 – Cross

We love the baby Jesus in the manger, all warm and snuggly. And Jesus the teacher, while he maybe makes us a little uncomfortable by what he says, is still Ok. But what do we do with a Messiah Lord who calls us to walk with him and pick up our own cross? Isn't this asking a bit much? Or is this perhaps where we truly see all of Jesus and all of ourselves? Join us this weekend as we look at the cross and what it means for us.

Scripture:

Philippians 2:1-11 NLT Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ²Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges the took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 8:31-37 NLT Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³²As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. ³³Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." ³⁴Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷Is anything worth more than your soul?

Mark 15:16-24 NLT The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. ¹⁷They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. ¹⁸Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" ¹⁹And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. ²⁰When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. ²¹A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, ²²was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.)

Questions:

- Have you ever denied yourself as an expression of your faith in Jesus? If so, what did you do? How did it feel? What did you learn?
- What or who spurs you on in faith when you are lagging or uncertain?
- What do you think it means to "have the mind of Christ"? How can you look to the interests of others today?

Reading for the Week:

Monday: Matthew 16:24-26

Tuesday: Galatians 2:20

Wednesday: Romans 12:1-2

Thursday: Luke 9:23-27

Friday: Hebrews 12:1-2