



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

November 24, 2013

Matthew's Gospel: Preparing for The Cross of Christ

Focus Text: Matthew 26.1-16

1. As you look at the context and the fact that Jesus has just finished sharing about His Second Coming and the judgment to come, think about the thought that Jesus is the Judge of the Universe in Matthew 24-25, but in Matthew 26-27 He will be judged. Discuss this irony as you begin.
2. Discuss how the following attributes of God are displayed in the cross: sovereignty, righteousness, wrath and love.
 - What does it mean that God is holy?
 - How do we see the sovereignty of God in the text (1-2)? How does Jesus respond to the sovereignty of God in the cross?
 - What does it mean that God is righteous (Psalm 145.17)?
 - What is the wrath of God (John 3.36)?
 - How would you describe the love of God?
3. Explain what is meant by the idea that the cross is fundamentally for God's sake (John 12.27-28)?
4. How does the cross expose our sin? What does it say about the seriousness of our sin? How do we see the wickedness of man in this text? Why do you think Judas betrays Jesus?
5. What do we learn from the woman who anoints Jesus with perfume? Why does Jesus rebuke the disciples the way He does referring to the poor?
6. As we prepare for Advent (December 1-25), discuss what the following quotes say about how we look at this season:

Christianity knows nothing of an incarnation which can be defined apart from its relation to the atonement (James Denney).

The cradle led to the cross – we must see it in this context. It is more than a marvel of nature, but a marvel of grace (Packer).

The whole of Christ's life was a continual passion; others die martyrs, but Christ was born a martyr. He found a Golgotha, where he was crucified, even in Bethlehem, where he was born; for to his tenderness then the straws were almost as sharp as the thorns after, and the manger as uneasy at first as the cross at last. His birth and his death were but one continual act, and his Christmas Day and his Good Friday are but the evening and the morning of one and the same day. From the crèche (cradle) to the cross is an inseparable line. Christmas only points forward to Good Friday and Easter. It can have no meaning apart from that, where the Son of God displayed his glory by his death (John Donne, The Book of Uncommon Prayers).

Pray.