



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

December 1, 2013

Matthew's Gospel: Remembering a Mission of Deliverance

Focus Text: Matthew 26.17-35

1. As we begin the Advent season what do the following quotes mean to you:

"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)."

2. What is Passover and what would be done at a Passover meal (Exodus 12)? What is the significance of this context of Passover to who Jesus is and what He is about to go through?
3. How do we see the God's sovereign purpose and yet also man's responsibility in this text? Read Acts 2.23 to see this same idea.
4. Read the following OT Scriptures: Psalm 41.9; Jeremiah 31.31-34; Ezekiel 36.25-27; Zechariah 9.11. How are they alluded to and some even fulfilled in this section of Scripture?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is our substitute? How would you explain this to an unbeliever with little or no theological knowledge or vocabulary?
6. How does the truth of Christ's substitutionary death impact our daily pursuit of holiness?
7. Think about the internal and external pressures that the disciples faced as they struggled with grasping the events surrounding Jesus. *What pressures are you facing right now?* Have the group pray for you. Be encouraged by the text today to know that there is hope, as Jesus alludes to the resurrection and the fact that He will be in Galilee and appear to the disciples. His covenant with them is sure and sealed in His blood. Take courage from that as you face the pressures of this season and daily life and seek to deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow Jesus.

Pray.