



Fall 2018 Series – Christianity Explored – Oct 14

Message: Why did Jesus die? Weekly Reading: Mark 8:30- 10:52

God the Father's only plan was to rescue us through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

Jesus wants everyone to see him clearly as the only Messiah. (Mark 8:22-30) John 5:24; John 10:10, 25-30; John 14:6;

Who do people say Jesus is today?

- Jesus heals a blind man so he can see clearly. (8:22-26)
- Jesus declared as Messiah. (8:27-30)

Jesus predicts his death and his resurrection. (Mark 8:31-33; 9:31-35; 10:33-41) How do the disciples respond in each case?

Why did Jesus have to die?

Jesus came serving, to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45) Ransom – A price paid so that a slave could be free.

- Jesus' death on a cross wasn't a tragic waste of life. It was a rescue.
- As Jesus was dying on the cross, darkness came over the whole land. God was acting in anger to punish sin. (15:33)
- Jesus gave himself up as a substitute, to be punished on our behalf. He bore the punishment that our sin deserves, so that we can be rescued.
- When Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Mark 15:38). Because of the cross, the way is now open for people to approach God through Jesus.

Jesus' life and death calls for a personal response.

- The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate gave in and compromised to satisfy the crowd. (15:9-15)
- The Soldiers gambling at Golgotha missed the Messiah. (15:24)
- The Lost and Religious Lost Leaders were convinced they were the way to God. (15:29-32)
- The Roman Centurion recognized the true identity of Jesus: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39)
- What is your personal response to Jesus, the only Messiah?

Life Group Questions

1. Who do people today believe Jesus is? What do they base these views on?
2. Peter's statement in Mark 8:29 seem set form a turning point in Mark's gospel (see Mark 8:31). What did Peter say, and why do you think it was so important?
3. Once the identity of Jesus was clear (Mark 8:29), he went on to explain his mission in Mark 8:31-32. Why do you think Peter rebuked Jesus? (See Mark 8:32-33)
4. Jesus came "to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). What's your reaction to this?
5. In Mark 8:31 Jesus said he "must" die. Why did he have to die? (Mark 10:45)
6. Jesus directly predicts his own death and resurrection three times. See message outline. What is the disciples' response or lack of it in these passages?
7. What is the mark of a disciple according to Mark 8:34?
8. What does it mean to follow Jesus Christ?
9. Is Jesus Christ your messiah King? Is Jesus your saviour and Lord of your life? What is the evidence of his Lordship/Kingship in your life?