

Why the Cross?

Bible Study – Based on Navigator Study “Clarifying Your Commitment”

2020-07-29 By Sharon Tidd

The turning point of Jesus’ ministry comes when Peter recognizes and declares that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) in Mark 8:29/Matthew 16:16/Luke 9:20. After that declaration Jesus begins to explain to His disciples the true nature of His Mission. What can we learn about His Mission from the following passages: Mark 8:31-33; Mark 9:30-32; Mark 10:32-34.

Read and reflect on the following verses/passages: Mark 10:45; 14:22-24. How did Jesus describe His death? What is the significance of this?

Read and reflect on the following verses/passages: Mark 14:32-36; 15:33-34. How did Jesus feel about His death? Why? What significance does this have for you?

Read and reflect on Romans 3:21-26. What does this passage tell us about humanity? Does your experience confirm this? What was Christ’s role in addressing this for us? What did His death make possible for us? According to this passage, why was His death necessary? How is it morally possible for a just and holy God to acquit and forgive sinful people?

Take some time to reflect on these terms: justification, redemption, atonement, righteousness, justice. If they are new to you, you may want to look up the Biblical definition of each. These are gifts offered us through Christ Jesus. What is their significance to you? Are you claiming them? What difference do they make in your life?

Read and reflect on the following passages: Romans 5:1-2; 8:31-39. What flows to those who have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ according to these passages? How do these blessings affect your life, day-to-day? Are you experiencing these blessings?

Read and reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What does this passage teach about Jesus Christ – His work/His mission? What does this passage teach about us – our work/our mission? What does it mean to you that Jesus “who had no sin” became sin for you (verse 21)?

Read and reflect on Hebrews 10:19-23 (cross-reference Leviticus 16; Matthew 27:51/ Mark 15:38/Luke 23:45). Christ Jesus is our High Priest, who willingly offered His own body and blood as a ‘once-for-all’ sacrifice for humanity’s sins. Through His death the veil in the Temple was torn in two. As a result of His sacrifice, what are we now able to do according to this passage? Why is this now possible? What does this mean for you?

Read and reflect on Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What does this Messianic prophecy teach about Jesus Christ’s work and mission? What does it tell us about His suffering and death? What was the emotional, physical and spiritual toll on Jesus? How do these prophetic words match up to the reality of Christ’s death captured in the Gospel accounts? According to this word from the LORD given 1000s of years before Christ came to earth, why was His death necessary? Take time now to prayerfully thank Jesus for His willingness to suffer and die in your place.

Read and reflect on Psalm 51; a Psalm of Confession. How does this Psalm speak to you? Can you relate to the writer’s plea for forgiveness and cleansing? Ask the Spirit to reveal any sin in you that needs Christ’s cleansing and forgiveness today. Confess so that your sins may be wiped away and your relationship with God can be restored anew.