

MARK

READ ALOUD: MARK 15:21-39

Pursue

In our text this week, Jesus is crucified. This heartbreaking scene displays, yet again, Jesus's willingness to undergo the most profound suffering ever experienced for the sake of the ones he loves and saves.

NOTE: We don't normally include sermon-specific questions, so if you have many group members who were not present for the sermon, consider skipping the first question. It will relate to the sermon.

- In this week's sermon, Neal shared four ways to see Jesus in this text: the Humiliated Hero, the Suffering Savior, the Sacrificed Son, and the Crucified King.
 - **Considering these titles for Jesus, which impacted you most significantly and why?**
- In these verses, we see Jesus accomplish the mission the Father has sent him to do. He fulfills each Old Testament prophecy about his death, but even more profoundly, he fulfills the promise God made in Genesis 3:15. A way is made for man to be reconciled to God and dwell with him forever!
 - **Thinking through the highs and lows of mankind in Old Testament history, what does seeing God's unrelenting faithfulness to secure our salvation through his very son's death reveal to us about God's sovereignty and control? How can that inform us about his hand in difficult circumstances in our life?**
- During the story this week, all the people surrounding Jesus (observers, the criminals, chief priests, scribes, etc.), mock his ascribed identities: "King of the Jews" and "Messiah." However, at his death, a centurion, a Roman (Gentile) guard, is the first to proclaim his true identity: the Son of God.
 - **What is significant about a gentile being the first to proclaim this truth, and why should it matter to us?**
 - **If Jesus truly is the Son of God, what do his crucifixion and death reveal to us about the nature and character of God?**
 - Jesus's sacrifice paid the penalty for our sin, yet we often return to it, and guilt and shame quickly follow. **Is there an area of your life in which you are walking in sin that needs to be repented of? What would it look like to trust that Jesus's death was the final word for your sin and to walk in freedom?**

Practice

Let's pray together! As a group, spend time this week thanking Jesus for securing our reconciled relationship with God. Ask God to help you live in light of this reconciling work putting sin to death and trusting fully in Jesus complete work on the cross.

Proclaim

Check-in with group members about the person they have been praying for and hoping to share Jesus with. What would one step forward for this relationship look like? How can the group encourage them and hold them accountable?