

April 17, 2011

Willow Park South
Small Group Questions

“Palm Sunday and Holy Week”

Galatians 6:11-18

- Please read Galatians 6:11-18 together at the beginning of your small group.

Concluding his letter to the Galatians, Paul states, “*far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (vs. 14, ESV). Paul understood that through the shameful death of Christ, we now have eternal life with our Savior.

How was the cross designed to completely shame the person who was hung?

Why are we prone to undermine the brutality of the cross?

Do you think we take the cross for granted because we undermine its shame?

Though the cross was scandalous, Paul boasts in Christ’s accomplishments through His shameful death.

Explain the following accomplishments of the cross in your own words:

1. Propitiation
2. Sacrifice
3. Victor
4. Redemption
5. Justification
6. Ransom
7. Example
8. Reconciliation

How does the cross display the love of God?

- **Romans 5:6-11** (ESV) *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

Paul goes on to say that through the cross “*the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world*” (Gal. 6:14, ESV). Since he serves Christ as his new master, Paul proclaims that he is dead to the desires and attractions of the world.

How should our lives reflect Paul’s reaction to the cross?
In whom do we hold our greatest treasure?

Read *Mark 14:34-36* together and explain how Jesus, foreseeing the brutality of His execution, sets an example of how we should place the will of God above any other desire.

- **Mark 14:34-36** (ESV) *“And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*

Finishing his letter, Paul states that we should live our lives by one rule: Jesus Christ crucified.

Reflection and Prayer:

- Is there any other rule that you are living your life by?
- Do you boast in your hard work, your family, your success? Are you living for the desires and attractions of the world? Or Is Jesus Christ your greatest treasure? In Him alone do you boast?