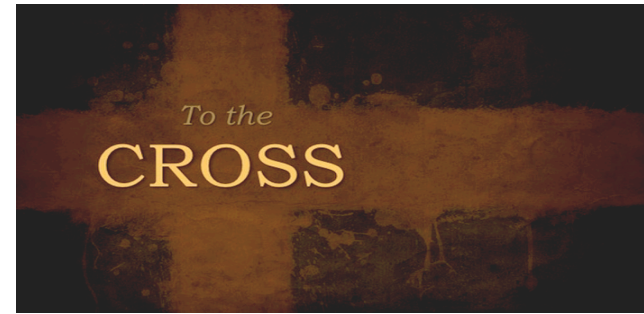


Praying Together

Spend time praying together with your group, giving time to share joys and concerns, but making sure you have enough time to actually pray. Jot down your own prayer requests before your gathering begins..



“He Stoops to Conquer”

Mark 15:33-41

Eric Sorenson

March 18, 2018

Notes on How to Pray for Others

How to Pray for our Church

Pray for unity

Pray for the board as it selects a chairperson for the pastor search team

Pray for the church staff during this time of transition

Pray for Easter (April 1), that people will be responsive to the Good News

Other:

Pray for our Community, the World, and our Missionaries.

Opening Up:

Have you ever seen a movie depicting the death of Jesus? If so, how did they portray it?

Digging into Our Text:

What did you know about Mary Magdalene before reading our biblical text? Was your information correct, or not? Read Luke 8.1-2. What do make of the statement there describing Mary Magdalene's condition before meeting Jesus? As in Luke 8, Mary Magdalene's name is always mentioned first among the lists of women. Why do you think that is?

Read Mark 15.33-41. Describe what is happening in this scene. How does what you read compare to the way Jesus' crucifixion is depicted in movies? Read Psalm 22, and mark out the things that you see there that are pre-descriptions of what is happening in Mark 15. Many things have been said about what's behind Jesus' striking statement in Mark 15.34. What do you think is behind it?

According to verse 38, the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, where the ark resided, was torn in two. What is the significance of that? (You may want to note Hebrews 10.19-25) Think about Mary: What's she thinking, doing, and feeling during the horrible spectacle of Jesus' crucifixion. Is she even looking?

Read 2 Corinthians 5.21 more than once. What pops out to you from this verse, which is sometimes considered one of the most important verses in the New Testament? In your own words, what does the *Substitutionary Atonement* refer to?

Jesus actually began to carry the weight of our sin from the moment he was conceived. Take a minute to think about the statement from TF Torrance: "He took our perverted, corrupt, degenerate, diseased human nature, enslaved to sin and subject to death under the condemnation of God." How does that change the way you previously conceived of Jesus as a human?

Read Colossians 1.13-14. How do these verses help you understand the meaning of Jesus death in a different way? What does *Victorious Atonement* mean, and how does it differ from *Substitutionary Atonement*?

Getting Personal:

Does the idea of Jesus being victor of sin, death, and evil, impact your thinking and/or feeling about what Jesus has done for you? What do you think God would call you to do in light of meditating on Jesus death?

For Pondering in Private:

How does it impact you to ponder the truth that Jesus has entered in the very pit of evil and darkness in order to give us new life? How can your times of struggle, pain, and difficulty be altered by the knowledge that Jesus has overcome?