

March 19, 2017

“Crosswalk”

A Six-Week Journey with the Cross, Part 2

“The Cost of the Cross”

“For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.” Mark 8:35

Mark 8:34-38 NLT

A. The cost of the cross to Jesus...

“Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.” Philippians 2:7-8

1. He gave up His position as God.
2. He gave up His power as God.
3. He gave up His person as God.
4. He became fully human, completely dependent as an infant, obedient to God, and willingly surrendered His life as a criminal!

“The only time in all the gospels that Jesus Christ prays to God and doesn’t call him Father is on the cross, when he says, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ Jesus lost his relationship with the Father so that we could have a relationship with God as father. Jesus was forgotten so that we could be remembered forever - from everlasting to everlasting. Jesus Christ bore all the eternal punishment that our sins deserve. That is the cost of prayer. Jesus paid the price so God could be our father.” —Tim Keller

“What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was given a position ‘a little lower than the angels’; and because he suffered

death for us, he is now ‘crowned with glory and honor.’ Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.” Hebrews 2:9

B. The reason Jesus paid the price...

“Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.”

Hebrews 2:17

1. A sacrifice for sin had to be paid.

“Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:18-19

2. A substitutionary sacrifice had to be paid for me.

“But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’” Galatians 3:13

3. His sacrifice brought me into a new family and a new life.

“And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.” Romans 8:17

4. His sacrifice was given all because of love!

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 NIV

C. The cost of the cross to me...

“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

Jesus called to the crowd...

1. You can no longer follow the crowd and still follow Jesus.
2. You can no longer follow your own desires and still follow Jesus.
3. You can no longer hold onto the world and still follow Jesus.
4. You can no longer hold onto your own life and still follow Jesus!

What do you possess that is of greatest value?

What do you have that is eternal?

What are you willing to trade for your soul?

Your wealth... your reputation... your

accomplishments...your position... the opinion of

others...What would it be??

“So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak?” Hebrews 2:3

“Is anything worth more than your soul?”

Coming next:

40 Days of Prayer and Fasting –

March 5 – April 16, 2017

March 26: Stay Near the Cross

April 2: The Power of the Cross

April 9: Freedom Through the Cross

April 16: After the Cross - 3 Days Later

“Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’”

“Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, ‘Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; *I* am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for? If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.’”