



Easter Sunday - March 27, 2016

Warm Up

When Jesus was crucified, there were a lot of spectators present, and it's interesting to think about the variety of reactions found in that crowd. Many were totally unaware of the significance of the moment, some choosing to mock Jesus, some simply observing. Others, however, like Jesus' mother Mary and John the disciple, stood before the cross aching for their Savior, recognizing the magnitude of His sacrifice, trying to simultaneously process incredible loss and hold onto hope. Mary, John, and those like them were fully aware, fully present, and fully engaged at the cross. The cross is a place a price was paid, releasing each of us from the debt of our sin, which would have led to our eternal death. It's a place where decisions are made. There is no neutrality when people face the reality of the cross; they say yes to Jesus, or they say no. The cross is a place of new beginnings, providing a clean slate for each of us who call Jesus, "Lord." It's a place of hope for the future. It's a place of healing. And it's a place of freedom.

Into The Bible

"God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. 33 Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. - Acts 2:32-33"

- Talk about the crucifixion of Jesus and what it must have been like to be there in person. How do you feel when you reflect on the events of that day?
- Discuss the truths of the Resurrection that Pastor talked about on Sunday. Which of these is most greatly hitting your heart?
- Talk about your inner response as you reflect on the truths of the cross. How is God moving you to reach out to others after Easter? Who has He put on your heart to invite to church this year?

Application

Spend time every day this week meditating on the reality of what Christ did for us on the cross. Allow the truth to penetrate your heart.

Prayer Focus : Thank Jesus for His incredible sacrifice on the cross. Thank Him for all of the amazing benefits you experience because of His great act of love. Praise Him for paying your debt, for giving you a new beginning, for giving you hope for the future, for healing you, for setting you free.

Ask God to reveal even more to you about the implications of the cross. Pray for those you know who are lost. Ask Him for boldness, wisdom, and opportunity to invite them to point them to Jesus.