

Small Group Discussion Questions

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What was your most memorable victory or most surprising defeat? Why?

Talk It Over Together: (Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, **cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week**. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)

1. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21-24 and Colossians 2:13-15. Pastor Tom pointed out that the Jews were looking for a "triumphant, political, and military Messiah, 'not a crucified one...'" In what ways do you think it was hard for the disciples when Jesus died? Have you experienced disappointment that ended up being a true blessing? How is this different from "positive thinking?"
2. The cross brings us victory in the forgiveness of sins. Re-read Colossians 2:13-14. Pastor Tom mentioned the "written code" was a "certificate of indebtedness," and that, through Christ, He has cancelled our debt, taken it away, and nailed it to the cross. He went on to quote O'Brien saying, "He has 'not only cancelled the debt, but also destroyed the document on which it was recorded.'" That's forgiveness! Describe what it means to be in debt to someone or something. What does cancelling the debt mean for the debtor? How should our response be to Christ for cancelling our debt?
3. In the message Tom stated that the cross also conquers demonic forces under Satan's control. Re-read Colossians 2:15. What does it mean to be disarmed? Have you ever seen someone who was publicly humiliated? How did this affect their position and demeanor? Have you ever been on a losing team? How did that make you feel? Describe how all of these combined elements help put Satan in his proper place.
4. Read and discuss Stott's quote listed at the bottom of your message notes. What strikes you the most as you read this? In what ways does this perspective on the Cross help you "Keep Calm?"

As you close your time together, take a few minutes to pray for each other and multi-site: **"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."** (ISAIAH 54:2, NIV)

- For this strategic opportunity to help us better extend our ability to share God's love, because lost people matter to God.
- For discernment in finding just the right location.
- For positive progress with local government officials as we work together.
- That we will respond with generosity to God's promptings as we invest in extending His reach.

Personal Reading

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions: What did I learn about God from what I read? What did I learn about myself? What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: Ephesians 2:1 10

Day 3: John 16:16 33

Day 2: 1 Corinthians 15:3 6, 57

Day 4: Philippians 2:1 11



KEEP CALM

"KEEP CALM THE VICTORY IS OURS"

SENIOR PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JULY 20TH, 2014





"Keep Calm—The Victory is Ours"

July 20, 2014

By Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

Jesus' cross was a place of grief, sorrow, _____, agony, and death. But His cross is now a symbol that the enormous price Jesus paid was worth it because of the significance and scope of the _____ Jesus accomplished there.

1. The _____ of the Cross

"...not a crucified one...Greeks and Romans were sure no r _____ person would be crucified, so it was unthinkable that a crucified criminal could be the Savior." (More)

But the cross remains at the center of the gospel and the _____ of Jesus' mission.

Note Colossians 2:13-15

How could the crucified be the C _____?

2. Satan's l _____ of the Cross

Remember: Satan isn't _____. Obviously Satan knew that Jesus was the Son of God/Messiah, the One who had come to _____ him (note Genesis 3:15).

- He tried to get rid of Jesus...
- He tried to _____ Him from His mission... (note John 6:15)
- The evil one _____ Jesus' claim to be King...
- And he wanted to _____ Jesus from becoming a King...

To see Jesus killed, not as a religious martyr in the _____... ..but as a lawbreaker, a criminal; put to death at the hands of Gentiles and cursed in God's sight (i.e., " _____ is anyone who hangs on a tree", Galatians 3:13).

Satan saw the cross as his place of victory and t _____; in God's plan, the cross was the place of Satan's c _____ defeat.

Note I Peter 1:10-12

3. The _____ of the Cross

Note John 12:23-33

At the cross, Jesus took away Satan's two most powerful weapons:

- He p _____ the penalty for sin and b _____ the power of sin.
- He routed the power of _____ (note Hebrews 2:14-15).

Note Acts 2:24

These are the two primary victories of Jesus' work on the cross:

- A. Forgiveness (note Colossians 2:13-14) - "written code" = c _____ of indebtedness. Through the cross, God has done 3 things with our debt.
- "Cancelled it" = "wiped it _____"
 - "took it _____"
 - "nailing it to the cross" - He has "not only cancelled the debt, but also d _____ the document on which it was recorded." (O'Brien)
- B. Conquered _____ forces under Satan's control (note Colossians 2:15):
- "disarmed" = " _____ of weapons, dignity, and might.
 - "made a public spectacle of them" = exhibited them as the "powerless _____" they had been made, and...
 - "triumphing over them" = "leading them in a triumphal p _____" (lit.)

It was "as if the cross which was full of shame, had been changed into a triumphal c _____!" (Calvin)

We can "Keep Calm" because:

Through the cross, Jesus demolished Satan's weapons, _____, and authority.

"Of course any contemporary observer who saw Christ die would have listened with astonished incredulity to the claim that the Crucified was a Conqueror. Had He not been rejected by his own nation, betrayed, denied and deserted by His own disciples, and executed by authority of the Roman procurator? Look at Him, there, spread-eagled and skewered on his cross, _____ of all freedom of movement, strung up with nails or ropes or both, pinned there and powerless. It appears to be total defeat. If there is victory, it is the victory of _____, prejudice, jealousy, hatred, cowardice and brutality. Yet the Christian claim is that the reality is the opposite of the appearance. What looks like (and indeed was) the defeat of goodness by evil is also, and more certainly, the defeat of evil by goodness. Overcome there, He was Himself overcoming. Crushed by the ruthless power of Rome, He was Himself crushing the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). The victim was the victor, and the cross is still the throne from which He _____ the world..." (Stott)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



RIVERSIDE NOTES

Sermon: **“Keep Calm – The Victory is Ours”**

Series: *Keep Calm*

Jesus’ cross was a place of grief, sorrow, pain, agony, and death. But His cross is now a symbol that the enormous price Jesus paid was worth it because of the significance and scope of the victory Jesus accomplished there.

1. The Paradox of the Cross

“...not a crucified one...Greeks and Romans were sure no reputable person would be crucified, so it was unthinkable that a crucified criminal could be the Savior.” (More)

But the cross remains at the center of the gospel and the heart of Jesus’ mission.

Note Colossians 2:13-15

How could the crucified be the Conqueror?

2. Satan’s Ignorance of the Cross

Remember: Satan isn’t God.

Obviously Satan knew that Jesus was the Son of God/Messiah, the One who had come to conquer him (note Genesis 3:15).

- **He tried to get rid of Jesus...**
- **He tried to divert Him from His mission... (note John 6:15)**
- **The evil one mocked Jesus’ claim to be King...**
- **And he wanted to stop Jesus from becoming a King...**

To see Jesus killed, not as a religious martyr in the Temple...

...but as a lawbreaker, a criminal; put to death at the hands of Gentiles and cursed in God’s sight (i.e., “cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree”, Galatians 3:13).

Satan saw the cross as his place of victory and triumph; in God’s plan, the cross was the place of Satan’s crushing defeat.

Note 1 Peter 1:10-12

3. The Victory of the Cross

Note John 12:23-33

At the cross, Jesus took away Satan's two most powerful weapons:

- He paid the penalty for sin and broke the power of sin.
- He routed the power of death (note Hebrews 2:14-15).

Note Acts 2:24

These are the two primary victories of Jesus' work on the cross:

A. Forgiveness (note Colossians 2:13-14) – “written code” = certificate of indebtedness. Through the cross, God has done 3 things with our debt:

- i. “Cancelled it” = “wiped it clean”
- ii. “took it away”
- iii. “nailing it to the cross” – He has “not only cancelled the debt, but also destroyed the document on which it was recorded.” (O'Brien)

B. Conquered demonic forces under Satan's control (note Colossians 2:15):

- i. “disarmed” = “stripped” of weapons, dignity, and might.
- ii. “made a public spectacle of them” = exhibited them as the “powerless powers” they had been made, and...
- iii. “triumphing over them” = “leading them in a triumphal procession” (lit.)

It was “as if the cross which was full of shame, had been changed into a triumphal chariot!” (Calvin)

We can “Keep Calm” because:

Through the cross, Jesus demolished Satan's weapons, work, and authority.

“Of course any contemporary observer who saw Christ die would have listened with astonished incredulity to the claim that the Crucified was a Conqueror. Had He not been rejected by his own nation, betrayed, denied and deserted by His own disciples, and executed by authority of the Roman procurator? Look at Him, there, spread-eagled and skewered on his cross, robbed of all freedom of movement, strung up with nails or ropes or both, pinned there and powerless. It appears to be total defeat. If there is victory, it is the victory pride, prejudice, jealousy, hatred, cowardice and brutality. Yet the Christian claim is that the reality is the opposite of the appearance. What looks like (and indeed was) the defeat of goodness by evil is also, and more certainly, the defeat of evil by goodness. Overcome there, He was Himself overcoming. Crushed by the ruthless power of Rome, He was Himself crushing the serpent’s head (Gen. 3:15). The victim was the victor, and the cross is still the throne from which He rules the world. . . .” (Stott)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!