



Beholding Jesus on the Cross

Warm-up Question:

What are your favorite memories or traditions of Easter? Who will you invite to Easter services this year?

I. BEHOLD THE: PARADOX

- ▶ How does the cross still move you? What do you feel when you see the cross mocked, as in Mark 15:29-32 or the early artistic depiction of Jesus on the cross with the head of a donkey?
- ▶ Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. When the world sees the cross on churches, tombstones, jewelry, and even tattoos, how do they receive its message? How do we see it?

THE OBSCENITY

- ▶ Read Isaiah 53:3-5 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does the brutality of the cross make you love Jesus more?
- ▶ According to 1 Peter 2:24, what impact does the obscenity of the cross have on our lives today?

THE BEAUTY

- ▶ What is the effect of the beauty of the cross as described in Ephesians 5:2 and 1 John 3:16?
- ▶ Discuss the meaning of Pastor Adam's statement, "He took our ugliness that we might have his loveliness... We are hidden in his beauty."

II. BEHOLD THE: CRY

- ▶ The Roman centurion had a close-up view of Jesus's words on the cross. Read them in chronological order in Luke 23:34, Luke 23:43, John 19:26-27, Mark 15:34; John 19:28, John 19:30, and Luke 23:46.
- ▶ What did this centurion notice that others did not? What moved him to make this confession in Mark 15:37-39, the only proclamation in the Gospel of Mark that Jesus is the Son of God?
- ▶ Jesus did not ask a rhetorical question when he cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" What is the answer to his question according to 2 Corinthians 8:9, and how does this change your view of the cross?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

The cross with all its incredible meekness and patience and compassion is no deed of passive and beautiful heroism simply, but the most potent and aggressive deed that heaven and earth have ever known: the attack of God's holy love upon the inhumanity of man and the tyranny of evil, upon all the piled-up contradiction of sin.
— T. F. Torrance

Beholding Jesus on the Cross

Warm-up Question:

What are your favorite memories or traditions of Easter? Who will you invite to Easter services this year?

I. BEHOLD THE: PARADOX

- ▶ How does the cross still move you? What do you feel when you see the cross mocked, as in Mark 15:29-32 or the early artistic depiction of Jesus on the cross with the head of a donkey?
- ▶ Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. When the world sees the cross on churches, tombstones, jewelry, and even tattoos, how do they receive its message? How do we see it?

THE OBSCENITY

- ▶ Read Isaiah 53:3-5 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does the brutality of the cross make you love Jesus more?
- ▶ According to 1 Peter 2:24, what impact does the obscenity of the cross have on our lives today?

THE BEAUTY

- ▶ What is the effect of the beauty of the cross as described in Ephesians 5:2 and I John 3:16?
- ▶ Discuss the meaning of Pastor Adam's statement, "He took our ugliness that we might have his loveliness... We are hidden in his beauty."

II. BEHOLD THE: CRY

- ▶ The Roman centurion had a close-up view of Jesus's words on the cross. Read them in chronological order in Luke 23:34, Luke 23:43, John 19:26-27, Mark 15:34; John 19:28, John 19:30, and Luke 23:46.
- ▶ What did this centurion notice that others did not? What moved him to make this confession in Mark 15:37-39, the only proclamation in the Gospel of Mark that Jesus is the Son of God?
- ▶ Jesus did not ask a rhetorical question when he cried out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" What is the answer to his question according to 2 Corinthians 8:9, and how does this change your view of the cross?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?