



Easter at Church of the King

Warm-up

Share an experience with the group when you felt the love of Jesus for the first time.

Overview

As we celebrate this season of Easter, we are reminded of the love Jesus had for us by laying down His life for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus took the beatings, the humiliation, the nailing on the cross to pay the price for our salvation.

Word and Application

In this week's sermon, Pastor Steve talked about God's love for us by sacrificing His only Son, Jesus, on the cross. For it is the understanding of His love for us that He died in our place. To truly see the hand of God upon our lives and Jesus' love for us we must see Him at the Cross.

1. Why did He create us by His hand?

- Jesus also worked miracles with His hands. He touched the skin of the lepers and made them whole. He could have healed them with just one word, but He chose to touch them-- knowing that the greatest need people have is to feel loved. Jesus touched them compassionately. Can you share a time when you experienced the compassionate touch of Jesus?
- As an object of His love, we can see the strong hands of Jesus when He reaches into the raging waves to pull Peter out of the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 21:12). His strong hands hold us tight in his loving arms during our hard times. We can lean on the strength of God's love to give us reconciliation, tranquility, and bliss. Why is it so important to rely on God during our hard times? Why is it so challenging?
- There are times when we feel we do not deserve the love of Jesus. But the good news is we can trust Him no matter how bad we mess up in life. When we see the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, we see how He has inscribed us on the palms of His hands. **Read Isaiah 49:16a.** Are you confident in the love God has for you? If not, why?

2. Why did Jesus have to die?

- Much blood was shed by Jesus during the crucifixion, the blood from the Crown of Thorns, the blood from the flogging of the whip, the blood from the soaked pierced hands, and the blood from the soldier's spear. All were the blood of the Lamb. No matter how deep the wounds, the blood of the Lamb cleanses and covers. Every sin that you've ever committed is not only forgiven but also forgotten. Christ's love is shown by leaving His home in heaven, where He was worshipped and honored as He deserved. He came to earth as a man where He would be mocked, betrayed, beaten, and crucified on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, rising again from the dead on the third day. **Read Hebrews 8:12.** What makes you want to know God more intimately?
- **Read Hebrews 9:12.** When Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He did away with the Old Covenant requirement for the continual sacrifices of animals. Their blood was not sufficient to cover the sins of the people, except on a temporary basis, because sin against a holy and infinite God requires a holy and infinite sacrifice. Jesus said, "It is finished" as He was dying, and He meant just that—the entire work of redemption was completed forever. After reading this, why do you believe we are new creations in Christ? How does knowing we are new creations change the way you view and live your life?

3. Why the empty tomb?

- Before the death and resurrection of Jesus, people were in bondage (slaves to sin). The death of Jesus, the giving of His life, purchased the freedom of His people. God Himself, provided the only sacrifice (Jesus) who could atone for the sins of mankind. God's perfect Son fulfilled God's perfect requirement of God's perfect law. What would you say to someone who believes they can earn salvation through following the law?
- Through Jesus' resurrection, He revealed the heart of God the Father, to send God the Son to bring *salvation* – rescue, hope, healing – to the world. Jesus came into the world not to come down on us, but to reach out to us and to embrace the world and draw it to Himself. **Read John 3:17.** How would you explain to someone who does not know Christ, why He died for our sins?

Life Challenge

In **John 3:16**, Jesus communicates the Father's heart, the Father's plan, and the Father's will. His heart: He loved the world. His plan: He gave His only Son. His will: Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For the next 10 days, meditate on this verse while giving emphasis to a different word every day.

Prayer

Father, I confess that Jesus is my Lord. I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead. I thank You for forgiving me of all my sin. I am Your child, and I commit to walking in the God kind of love. My hopes are fadeless under all circumstances. I endure everything without weakening because the love of God in me never fails. Amen.
Pray for the specific needs of the group.