God's Servant Crucified Mark 15:21-39

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 <u>ESV</u>)

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14 <u>ESV</u>)

Truth: If we stray an inch from the cross of Jesus, we will be separated from the Christian faith.

Main Idea: We glory in the cross of Jesus. The cross is the center of our everyday life. At the cross we learn how much God loves us. At the cross we receive all that we need for life now and forever.

We KNOW that we are loved by God because in our place, Jesus . . .

1. Was condemned as a sinner so that we might not be condemned as sinners.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus . . . By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us . . . (Romans 8:1-4 ESV)

When you think of the cross, think of the day that you stand before the Judgment and are presented as "FAULTLESS"!

2. Was mocked so that we might be honored.

In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. (1 Peter 5:10 NLT-SE)

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:16-18 ESV)

When you think of the cross, think of the glory you will share with Jesus for all eternity!

3. Was stripped naked so that we might be clothed in righteousness.

Definition: Imputation is Jesus giving His righteousness to sinful people who believe in Him.

you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, (1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 <u>ESV</u>)

When you think of the cross, think of the white clothes that you will wear as you celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb with Jesus in the kingdom of God!

4. Was made a curse so that we might be forever blessed.

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." (Galatians 3:10 <u>ESV</u>)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— (Galatians 3:13 <u>ESV</u>)

When you think of the cross, think of the blessing that you received because the curse has been lifted from your life!

5. Was numbered with criminals so that we might be numbered with saints.

When you think of the cross, think of your being numbered with the saints and marching into God's presence together!

6. Was forsaken by the Father so that we might be accepted in the beloved.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, **smitten by God, and afflicted.** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5 ESV)

When you think of the cross, think of God's open arms embracing you in love . . . knowing that despite your failures, the LORD accepts you!

7. Was torn open so that He might open a way to God for us.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, . . . let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, . . . (Hebrews 10:19-22 ESV)

When you think of the cross, think of Jesus opening a way for you to the presence of God.