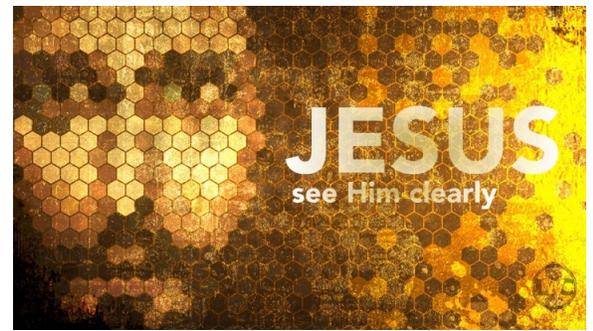




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Jesus-Die as our Redeemer or Die as a Martyr?

Introduction: Thousands of men and women have died for a cause. Death by crucifixion was a method of execution for centuries before Christ was crucified. There has been many examples of heroism and bravery upon death that has inspired millions. Did Jesus do just that? Did he die as a martyr and inspire a movement? NO. His death accomplished forgiveness of sins and the redemption of lost souls.

Text: Isaiah 53

Discussion:

1. Where in everyday life do you see crosses?
2. Crucifixion was the most horrible death one could imagine. The word excruciating is derived from this word. The gospel writers simply state that Jesus was crucified. We often see the cross as something to display in a church, decorate in our house, or wear around our neck covered in gold. How does, the reality of the brutality of the cross impact your view of the cross? Write/Discuss.
3. What makes the death of Jesus significant? The Cross or the Christ on the Cross? As believers, what should the symbol or image of the cross move us to embrace?
4. What are example in the life of Jesus that show he was despised and acquainted with grief?
5. Read Isaiah 53:4-6. What does this say about us? What does it say about Jesus?
6. Find a bible dictionary and define the following words: Atonement, Redeem, Propitiation, Expiation. How do these relate to the verses in Isaiah 53? What does substitutionary atonement mean?
7. Read the following: Galatians 3:13, Romans 8:3, 1 Cor. 15:3, & 2 Cor. 5:21 How does the truth of these verses impact your life?
8. According to Acts 2:23, was the cross an after thought or predetermined plan? How does this influence your view of God's plan for redemption?
9. Read 1 John 4:10 How does this definition of love differ from our culture's definition of love?
10. Read Hebrews 7:26-28. Take time giving thanks to Jesus for being our final sacrifice and great High priest. Write/discuss the value of having a perfect high priest.

Think About it:

Thousands of men have been crucified. Yet, only one crucified man has been worshiped as God. What makes the cross of Christ significant is the Christ on the cross. The crucifixion of Jesus is a historical event with eternal impact. Jesus died for our sin so that we can be forgiven. Jesus did not die as a martyr, but our redeemer. When you see a cross this week; think of redemption..

Moving Forward:

Jesus is our redeemer! He died the death that we should have died. He knew no sin, but was made sin on our behalf. He bore our sin and covered our shame. We all sinned and violated God's law. Jesus, the God Man, lived the life we could not live and paid the price we could not pay so we might be forgiven. Take time each morning to thank Jesus for being your substitute and making atonement for you. Identify one step you will take this week to draw closer to Jesus and walk in the victory of the cross of Christ.