

Thursday, March 25

Today, we like to consider the moment and process when you came to faith in God through Jesus the Christ. Was it an emotional time? Were you in a group of people or alone? What were the next steps you took having made that decision? Involvement in a local church? Bible Study?

How did your decision change your life? How did it change the lives of those around you? How has your faith developed since you made that decision; has it deepened or faded? What next steps would you like to take in your journey of faith? How can the church help you in making that decision? Write your thoughts here and consider sharing them with one of our staff or leaders. Pray that what you bring to the conversation will bear fruit for you and others.

Friday, March 26

Read Mark 15:33-39. Jesus cried out “It is finished!” We can guess what that means, however, we claim as the church of Jesus Christ that his work continues in us – the living body of Christ in the world today. Look at the world around us! Are we truly debating whether or not Black Live Matter? Can we not see the damage that is done when we marginalize people, including the LGBT-plus community? I’m not just talking about the LGBT+ community but what such action of marginalizing people does to our very souls. With over half a million Americans and two and half million worldwide dead from Covid-19, why are we still debating whether or not it’s real? Jesus’ work on this world was finished and continues through those who – in some way, in any way – proclaim, “Truly, this man was God’s Son!” And this work, begun by Jesus, is never done! What would you like to do to continue the work of Christ in the world today? Write your ideas here.

Message Notes – March 21, 2021

*Words to the Cross – A Word of Witness**

- I. Jesus, just before he died on the cross, gave out a great _____.
 - A. John tells us what Jesus shouted was, “It is _____!”
 - B. The Greek word the Gospel used for finish – *tetelestai* – has a meaning of being at _____.
- II. There was one person who was with Jesus throughout the last ___ or ___ hours of his life.
 - A. It wasn’t his mother Mary and it wasn’t his _____.
 - B. It wasn’t even the _____ who led Jesus out to the hill where they stood watch as he died on the cross.
 - C. The person who constantly accompanied Jesus during the last half day of his life was a _____.
 1. He probably wondered why it was so important to nab this guy in the middle of the night; this Jesus had been preaching in _____ places nearly every day for years.
 2. It’s worth noting that centurions appear four times in the New Testament narrative, and in every instance they are portrayed as especially _____ men.
 3. When Jesus had breathed his last, the Centurion _____, “Truly, this man was God’s son!”
- III. Truly, this man was God’s son!” What did the Centurion _____?
 - A. Many scholars will tell you – even warn you – to remember that the Centurion was a soldier, not a _____.
 - B. It’s possible that the Centurion spoke those words _____.

*Mark 15:33-39

at a very _____, and perhaps vulnerable moment in his life.

- C. No two persons who ever _____ that Jesus was the Son of God meant exactly the same thing.
- D. We make our first profession of faith often at an _____ time in our lives.
 1. What I try to do as a pastor who speaks nearly every Sunday morning is elicit an emotional _____ from you.
 2. If this was about helping you to regurgitate some pre-approved statement I'd tell you to go to take a _____ philosophy or comparative _____ class.

- IV. This brings me back to the story of my _____ and farming and the fact that farmers never get caught up in their work.
 - A. Jesus' work on this world was finished and _____ through those who – in some way, in any way – proclaim, “Truly, this man was God's Son!”
 - B. And this work, begun by Jesus, is _____ done!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, March 22

Read Psalm 23. Pastor Jack began the message with a story of his father, a farmer, who worked long hours every day. At some point, he would survey the work done and undone and decide it was enough. Many of you work long hours and need to care for yourselves and your loved ones. How and when do you decide to stop working and find rest with your loved ones? The Psalmist wrote, “He makes me lie down in green pastures.” What an image! God, the shepherd, makes us lie down and find rest? Are you finding that rest? Decide how you can find time to rest and

re-energize for your sake and the sake of those closest to you. Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, March 23

Read Mark 15:33-39. Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, former professor of preaching at Asbury Theological Seminary, writes that there was one person who was with Jesus throughout the last 15 or 16 hours of his life. It wasn't his mother Mary and it wasn't his disciples, some whose faded loyalty was apparent and they were most likely at a safe distance from Jesus. The person who constantly accompanied Jesus during the last half day of his life was a centurion. It would have been his assignment to stay with Jesus from the time Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane until he drew his last breath. After he witnessed Jesus death, he proclaimed, “Truly, this man was God's Son!” What do you think the centurion meant? Imagine yourself accompanying Jesus during these last hours of his life. How would you respond after seeing all that Jesus went through? Prayerfully consider these questions and write your responses here.

Wednesday, March 24

Read Mark 15:33-39. Yesterday you considered the proclamation the Centurion made. What proclamation would you make after knowing what Jesus went through in order to bring salvation and wholeness to others? What other proclamation can be made about Jesus? Would you say, “Jesus is Lord?” Would you say Jesus was simply a great teacher? A great healer? A great preacher? What can you say about Jesus with confidence? Write your thoughts here and pray for God to use your witness so that others may make their own profession of faith.