

SERMON: Christ Our Substitute and Our Victory
SERIES: The Gospel of Mark
SPEAKER: Pastor Brady

March 11, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 15:1-15.

And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ² And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³ And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷ And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸ And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹ And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰ For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

SERMON OUTLINE:

- I. The Nature of Christ's Kingdom
- II. Christ Our Substitute
- III. Christ Our Victory

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Review these passages that describe the “upside down” nature of Christ’s Kingdom: Mark 8:29-31; Mark 8:34; Mark 9:35; Mark 10:43-45. In what ways is Jesus’ Kingdom counter-cultural? What makes it hard for you live your life in the way that Jesus describes in these verses?
2. Jesus is our substitute. How do Barabbas, Pilate, and the crowd in Mark 15 show us our need for a substitute? Can you see yourself in these people (if not keep thinking)? If Jesus was judged in our place, how does that change how we live our lives day by day? How does it bring rest to our lives?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does this scripture explain what happened on the cross for us (sometimes called the Great Exchange)? Do you see your salvation this way? Do you see yourself as righteous?
4. Read Mark 15:2 and John 18:35-38. Jesus is inaugurating a new kingdom. Why do we need God’s victorious kingdom? Why do we need substitution in order to have victory?
5. 1 Peter 2:24. *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.* How does this verse demonstrate both substitution and victory? Think through how the truths of substitution and victory over Sin and Death empower us to actually live righteously in this “upside down” kingdom. Do you see yourself living “dead to sin and alive to righteousness?”

Pray: Praise and thank God for his substitutionary work in your place and the victory he has won for you over Sin and Death. Ask God to allow you to understand and live from your new victorious life in Christ.