

The Scandal of the Cross

Why is Christianity so weak?

Mark 15:16-39



Discussion questions

The absurdity of the cross...

1. Mocked as King yet Ruling (v16-20)

2. Powerless yet effective (v21-30)

3. Unable to save yet rescuing (v31-32)

4. Abandoned yet reconciling (v33-39)

- Follow Jesus

- Look to the cross

1. What has most struck you from today's message?
2. Do you ever think that the message of the cross is a bit pathetic and wish there were something a bit more impressive that we could point people to? Do we instinctively try to emphasize other aspects of the Bible's message instead? Why do you think the early Christians boasted in the cross?
3. What experience have you had of people using authority in a selfish way? Jesus used his authority to serve others: how does this comfort you or challenge you? How does Jesus turn worldly values on their heads?
4. In what ways was Jesus humiliated? How does this help us deal with our own experiences of shame or humiliation?
5. How do the temple curtain ripping and the centurion having his blindness lifted help us better understand what was happening at the cross?
6. Where do we tend to turn for answers or to experience comfort and assurance in life? If the cross is the place where God reveals his glory and restores us to himself, how can we get in the habit of pointing ourselves and others to the cross for these things?

The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

(from "Jesus of the Scars" by Edward Shillito)