

TAKEAWAY



THE RADICAL KING

Matthew 27:46-56 - The Darkest Day

In line with our goal to be a church of disciples who make disciples, this session is focussed on action, so that we are 'doers of the word' and not just hearers/people who enjoy a good discussion! It encourages focussed practical outcomes in the lives of the individuals in the group so that our discipleship as followers of Jesus is deliberately pursued.

DESIRED OUTCOMES *You don't necessarily need to discuss these, but be aware as a leader. To see the profound, deep, and radical nature of what Jesus did on the cross for us.*

INTRODUCTION

This passage covers the most important thing that has ever happened – the death of Jesus on a cross. Although the text tells us little about crucifixion itself, it gives us lots of detail on surrounding events.

SHARE

If someone asked you to briefly say why you think Jesus died, what would you say?

READ

Matthew 27:46-56

DISCUSS

What would you say are the key points of this passage?

When Jesus died, the huge (foot thick!) curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom. Why is this so significant?

Elijah was an Old Testament prophet, and in Jewish thought some people thought he would 'return'. This is why Jesus' cry to God, 'Eli' is misheard as 'Elijah'. But the crowd miss the point that Jesus is not waiting for Elijah to save him, but rather He himself saves Elijah – and everyone – through the very things He's doing. Today, many people get confused about what Jesus achieved on the cross.

How can we ensure that we know what it was all about? What effect does understanding the meaning of the cross have on followers of Jesus?

The centurion was a hardened executioner who had likely seen plenty of bloodshed. What did he see in Jesus that led him to think that he was something more than an ordinary man?

Had God forsaken Jesus on the cross? Why? Give reasons for your answer.

The essence of sin is substituting ourselves for God, the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. What reflections do you have about this central idea?

PRAY