

March 10th, 2024 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 54)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

### Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

### Introduction

Has there ever been a time in your life where you thought to yourself, "I was in the right place at the right time!" What were the circumstances around that situation? What about the opposite – "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time!" Describe that time!

### Digging In

**Question 1: Read Mark 15:16-21.** We see in this story, Simon of Cyrene, is passing by on his way from the country and something he probably didn't expect happened! He was going one direction and was told to completely change directions. Picking up Jesus' cross, Simon had to literally change the direction he was going. This picture shows us that following Jesus makes us change the direction we were going.

**Read Colossians 1:13, Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 37:4, Galatians 5:24**

When you became a Christian, how did you see Jesus help you change in the direction you were going? What about the changes in your heart and desires? How is Jesus asking you to go a different direction today?

**Question 2: Read Mark 15:21.** Simon is now "forced" or "compelled" to carry Jesus' cross. Think about what is likely going through Simon's head. "Why me?" Surprise, sadness, fear, pressure, fatigue, stress. **Read Matthew 16:22-26.** Following Jesus involves carrying a cross. How have you felt sorry for yourself when asked to carry your cross? What in your life feels heavy, coincidental, or even feels senseless? How are you trusting God's sovereignty regarding following Jesus? Even when tempted into thinking of asking God, "why me?"

**Question 3: Read Luke 14:27-33.** The analogy that Jesus gives about following Him is to calculate the actual cost of what it means to follow Him. He gives the illustration of a builder constructing a tower and sitting down to figure out what it would cost to finish the project. Or a king calculating the cost to go to war. Why do you think Jesus tells people who want to follow Him to "count the cost?" How is Jesus asking you today to consider the cost of what it will be to follow Him?

How are you dying to self today? How are you reminding yourself of your identity in Christ?

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:31, Galatians 2:20, Luke 14:27, Colossians 3:3.**

### Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

**Adoration** – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

**Confession** – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

**Thanksgiving** – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

**Supplication** – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?