

March 17th, 2024 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 55)

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 been a time where you were able to sit in the front row for an event? What was the event? What differences did you notice being so close as opposed to being much further back? How did the vantage point give you a different perspective?

### Digging In

**Question 1: Read Mark 15:22-39.** The Roman centurion calls Jesus the Son of God. Being the Son of God did not mean that God the Father had offspring. Being called Son of God meant that Jesus was same nature and essence as the Father. **Matthew 3:17** confirms that the Father proclaims Jesus as His son. To help us understand this distinction, read the following verses:

**Hebrews 1:3, Colossians 1:15-16, Colossians 2:9**

How does the verse in Hebrews confirm this definition of, "Son of God?" Based on the definition of Son of God, the term "firstborn of creation" in Colossians 1 cannot mean a physical terms. Verse 16 shows that He is eternal. If Jesus is the "firstborn" and "the son" what do these things mean? How do you think the Roman centurion's mind was open to Jesus being God's son? How has God made that revelation to you as well?

**Question 2: Read Luke 23:32-34.** The Roman centurion also saw something stunning when seeing Jesus on the cross. There had been thousands of crucifixions performed during the 1<sup>st</sup> century. This Roman centurion's job was to oversee that those crucifixions were carried out to their full purpose. Jesus was now forgiving the people that were beating him and crucifying him. No doubt, this Roman centurion had never seen someone being crucified forgive those who were killing him.

**Read Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-22, Psalm 86:5, Mark 11:25, Psalm 32:1**

How do you reflect and remember the forgiveness Jesus has shown you? How have you seen in your life a forgiving heart soften somebody else's hard heart? The Roman centurion witnessed a forgiveness he had never seen before, and it changed him. How has that same forgiveness changed you? Who do you need to forgive this week? Have you thought about how your forgiving heart through Christ could potentially help someone else's hard heart change?

**Question 3: Read Galatians 2:20.** Pastor Jeff ended his sermon with this verse and these principles.

If Christ lives in me then....

- I can forgive (**Ephesians 4:31-32**)
- I can witness (**Acts 1:8**)
- I can care (**John 13:34-35**)
- I can bear the burdens of others (**Galatians 6:2**)
- I can sympathize (**1 Peter 3:8-9**)
- I can triumph (**Romans 8:37-39**)

Which of these principles are you failing to consider as part of your walk with Christ this week? How can you remind yourself of these principles this week? Who is holding you accountable to help you with these things? How did God's word prompt you to examine these things in your heart?

### 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?