



THE RESCUE

Week 3

BREAKING THE ICE

What is the most embarrassing mistake you've made in public?

Have you ever had to be rescued from a serious situation?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we heard from Lisa Harper about how Jesus rescued us by bridging the gap between ourselves and God. We couldn't reach up to God's height so He, in His great love for us, descended down to the level of humanity in order to save us. He gave up the immense power and glory in his heavenly home, in order to rescue us in the mess and pain down here below.

Yet sometimes it's hard for us to understand how significant that descent was because we don't realize how high and glorious Jesus' existence in heaven was before.

1. In 1 Timothy 6:15 or Revelation 19:16 we read that Jesus is referred to as the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords?" What do you think this means?

2. Has anyone in your life ever done anything for you that was so beneath their position that it humbled you? What about the other way around - have you ever had the opportunity to serve someone that was "below" you in society or status, who could never repay you?

Likewise, in order to understand how great Jesus' sacrifice for us was, we have to understand what He gave up to do so. In Philippians 2:6-8 we're told that Jesus, though He was equal to God, lowered Himself to the likeness of a servant and even to the point of death on the cross, for our sake.

Even His disciples don't really seem to get what Jesus is aiming for, not to be at the top of an earthly hierarchy, but at the very bottom. In Mark 10:37-38 two of Jesus' disciples ask Him if they can sit at His right and left hand (in other words, to be the "highest ranking" guys in Jesus' new kingdom). Jesus' response to them shows that they don't understand what it will cost to complete His mission. He says "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

3. What did Jesus have to give up to save you?

4. How does that change your perspective on salvation?

And later in Mark, Jesus explains to us that "...whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." In the same way that Jesus descended to save and serve us, we are called to follow His example of humility and sacrifice.

5. In what ways specifically is Jesus calling you to lower yourself in humility in order to serve others?

6. How does Jesus going first in humility and sacrifice allow us to do the same without fear or shame?

Finally, when Jesus died on the cross we read in Mark 15:38 that "the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

7. What was the significance of this miraculous sign and what does it mean for us?

Just after reading about the curtain, we are told that a centurion - an enemy of the Jewish people - proclaims "Truly this man was the Son of God!" It's almost as if the great significance of Jesus' descent from heaven to earth and His sacrifice for humanity is suddenly understood by this man, and it stuns him.

8. In light of the Truth of who Jesus is - the Son of God - and what He has accomplished for us, how has your life changed?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, thank you that you sacrificed everything for us. May our lives be transformed because you bridged the gap between us and God. Teach us to humbly follow your example in love and sacrifice. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Spend time in prayer asking Jesus if there is there anything in your life that has put distance between you and God. Confess it to Jesus and ask Him to remove it so that you can draw near to Him.
- Follow the example of Jesus' humble sacrifice by finding someone or a group of people this week who you can serve and love with humility.
- Make plans to attend Easter at Cross Point and to invite others to join you to hear the Good News that gives us hope both now and forever at crosspoint.tv/easter