

Summary

This Palm Sunday sermon explores the crucifixion of Jesus through Mark 15:16-47, emphasizing how people missed seeing Jesus for who He truly was. The pastor uses an awareness test video to illustrate how 'it's easy to miss the things you're not looking for.' Despite being surrounded by religious leaders, soldiers, and crowds, many failed to recognize Jesus as the Son of God - only a Roman centurion truly saw Him. The sermon reveals three key realities of the cross that people missed: Jesus died to deal with our shame (not just sin), Jesus reversed the curse of the fall, and Jesus was being crowned as King through a divine coronation ceremony that paralleled Roman imperial traditions.

Intro Prayer

Father, we thank You for gathering us together today as we approach this holy week. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through Your Word. Help us to see Jesus clearly for who He truly is - not through the lens of familiarity or distraction, but with fresh eyes of faith. Holy Spirit, search our hearts and prepare us to receive what You have for us in this time together. Give us ears to hear and hearts that are ready to respond to Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you completely missed something obvious that was right in front of you - maybe you were looking for your glasses while wearing them, or searching for your phone while talking on it. What caused you to miss what was so obvious?

Key Verses

1. Mark 15:39
2. Psalm 22:1
3. Psalm 22:18
4. Mark 15:34
5. Mark 15:38

Questions

1. The pastor mentioned that 'it's easy to miss the things you're not looking for.' What are some things in your spiritual life that you might be missing because you're not actively looking for them?
2. The religious leaders and crowds all missed who Jesus truly was, yet a Roman centurion recognized Him as the Son of God. What do you think enabled the centurion to see what others

missed?

3. Jesus experienced public shame and humiliation on the cross. How does knowing that Jesus took on your shame change the way you view your past failures or current struggles?
4. The sermon explained that 'guilt says I did something bad, but shame says I am bad.' How have you experienced the difference between guilt and shame in your own life?
5. Mark parallels Jesus' crucifixion with a Roman coronation ceremony, showing Jesus as King even in His death. How does viewing the crucifixion as a coronation change your perspective on this event?
6. Joseph of Arimathea boldly asked for Jesus' body and gave his expensive tomb. What does it look like to boldly identify with Christ in your current circumstances?
7. The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died, giving us access to God. How should this reality of direct access to God impact your daily relationship with Him?
8. Jesus quoted Psalm 22 from the cross, showing He knew exactly what was happening according to God's plan. How does it comfort you to know that Jesus willingly chose to go through this for you?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of shame or past failure that you've been carrying. Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to take that shame from you, remembering that He was exposed so you could be covered, rejected so you could be accepted. Practice declaring your new identity in Christ - that you are chosen, loved, and made new. Consider sharing this struggle with a trusted Christian friend or small group member who can pray with you and remind you of your true identity in Christ.

Key Takeaways

1. It's easy to miss the things you're not looking for - many people missed seeing Jesus for who He truly was because they had already made up their minds about Him
2. Jesus died to deal with both our sin and our shame - He took the walk of shame so we don't have to carry it anymore
3. The crucifixion was actually Jesus' coronation as King, paralleling Roman imperial ceremonies but establishing His eternal kingdom
4. Jesus willingly laid down His life as an atonement and sacrifice - this wasn't just an execution but a planned redemption
5. Through the cross, we have direct access to God as the temple curtain was torn, and we receive a new identity as children of God

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for what You accomplished on the cross for each of us. Thank You that You didn't just die to forgive our sins, but You took on our shame so we could live in freedom. Help us to truly see You for who You are - our King, our Savior, and our hope. As we go into this week leading up to Easter, give us opportunities to share this good news with others who need to see You clearly. Help us to live out of our new identity as Your beloved children, no longer defined by our past but clothed in Your righteousness. May we never miss what You're doing in our lives because we're looking in the wrong direction. In Your precious name, Amen.