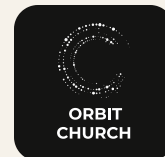


Easter Eggs & Deep Cuts

2024-03-25 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Mark 15

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Pastor Matt preached Palm Sunday from the nails instead of the palm branches. On the surface, the crucifixion is total rejection. The same crowd that shouted Hosanna a week earlier now hurls insults. The passers-by mock, the religious leaders mock, even the criminals dying next to Jesus mock. Words cut deep and nails cut deeper, and Jesus stays obedient through all of it. Then comes what Pastor Matt called the deep cut. Mark quotes Psalm 22 six or seven times in this passage. A crowd raised on that psalm would have heard the whole thing behind Jesus's cry, including verse 24: God has not hidden his face from the afflicted one.

To get started

- What is something someone said to you years ago that you still remember word for word?

Looking back at the message

He remembered being called a loser in sixth grade. Small words last a long time.

- 1 Pastor Matt still remembers being called a loser at church camp in sixth grade. What words have stuck to you like that?
- 2 At the cross, everyone piled on: passers-by, religious leaders, even the criminals dying next to him. What does that pile-on add to the scene?
- 3 The surface reading of the crucifixion is rejection. Hearing Psalm 22 underneath it changes what the scene means. When has a passage opened up like that for you?

OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Mark 15:25-37, then read Psalm 22 in full. The second reading is the whole point.

- 4 Read Mark 15:25-37. List everything that is said to Jesus while he hangs there.
- 5 Now read Psalm 22:1-8, written centuries earlier. How much of the crucifixion scene is already in this psalm?
- 6 Read Psalm 22:24. What does it say God has not done to the afflicted one?
- 7 Read Psalm 22:27-31. How does the psalm end, and what does that ending do to the cry at its start? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Somebody in the first service said they had been asking that question for years. Assume someone here has too.

- 8 Have you ever felt that God had forsaken you? What was that season like?
- 9 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me is the first line of Psalm 22, a psalm that ends in vindication. Knowing Jesus was quoting it, how does the cry read now?
- 10 Pastor Matt said many people are still held back by something once said to them or done to them. What is yours?
- 11 What does obedience look like in a season when people are against you? OPTIONAL

The group together

Reading the Old Testament behind the New is a skill. Encourage the group to try it on their own.

- 12 Why does it matter to know what the New Testament writers were quoting?
- 13 What passage would you like to understand more deeply, and who could help you get there?
- 14 Words cut deep. How could this group make a habit of words that build instead?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What have you assumed God's silence meant, and what does Psalm 22 say instead?

You might pray about

- For anyone who feels God has hidden his face
- For healing from words spoken over us
- For obedience in the middle of rejection