

Recap of 6/30/24 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 15:22-39)

- 1. Mark bookends his gospel with the phrase “Son of God.” Mark 1:1: “The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Centurion in 15:39: “Surely this man was the Son of God. To the Romans his original reader (and to us today) he is clearly presenting Jesus as the Son of God, God in the flesh by many proofs and evidence. This being so,” we are confronted with crucial questions: have we placed our faith in the Son of God for eternal life; are we growing in our obedience; are we replacing our thoughts with His thoughts; are we daily submitting to His Lordship and His Word, and His will?*
- 2. Mark’s theme in chapter 15 of his gospel is that the Son of God experienced the horrors of sin and death that we might experience the joys of eternal life with Him.*
- 3. What others are saying:*
 - “When we look at the cross, Jesus is saying to us, ‘God loves you like that, with love that is limitless, a love that will bear every suffering earth has to offer.’” (Barclay)*
 - “... the cross was the display of God’s hatred against sin and His infinite love for lost mankind. We should never think of Calvary as though it simply involved an innocent Man dying for guilty men. It was God giving Himself in the Person of His Son to bear the judgment which His righteous law declared to be the penalty of sin. There ‘the Offended died to set the offender free.’” (Ironsides)*
- 4. Mark mentions the “thieves/insurrectionists crucified along with Jesus. He mentions how they joined in the mocking and taunting of Jesus. But he we must go to Luke 23:32-43 to see “the rest of the story.” While both thieves began the day mocking Jesus, Luke tells us that later in the day one of the thieves put his trust in Jesus as his Savior. Some believe that he was converted as he watched how Jesus, the innocent, reacted to the Cross and responded to His tormenters by repeating throughout the day: “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Jesus responds to His faith, saying: “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” This is a strong argument for the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith not by works (Ephesians 2 8-10).*
 - The thief had no time for good works (He was also dying by crucifixion), he had no time to be baptized, he had no time to go to church, he had no time to do works of penance, he could do only one thing: believe.*