



Series: Guest Speaker
Passage: Mark 15:15-21
Title: Uncomfortable Blessings
Speaker: Gary Lawton, 4/21/2024

Discussion Starter – Why do you think that God didn't make the plan and the message of salvation so attractive that people would wait in line to receive it, and how does this relate to this sermon of Uncomfortable Blessings?

Read Mark 15:15-21

- 1) How does the story of Simon the Cyrene having to bear the cross of Jesus often relate to uncomfortable situations in the life of a believer?
- 2) Read Mark 15:15 and Romans 5:8-10: Comparing the two passages, what does the picture of the cross reveal to us about man and God?
- 3) What are some of the things we learn about this man Simon, from Mark 15:21? Do you know of any other scriptures in the bible that indicate something else related to particular man Simon?
- 4) What were the 3 feasts that Jews were required to observe, and why would this trip to Jerusalem be so important for Simon to attend in person?
- 5) What plans do you think Simon had on his mind as he finally, after a long journey was approaching Jerusalem to observe the Passover? Why do you think the Roman guards specifically choose him to help carry Jesus' cross?
 - a) Describe a time in your life when God allowed something to radically change your plans. How did you react? Looking back on the experience how do you see this as a blessing from God?
 - b) How does this story about Simon encourage you to look for God's hand in with something you are unexpectedly experiencing right now?
- 6) Read John 19:1-14: What do you think Pilate was hoping would happen after the scourging of Jesus? What was the significance of Pilate saying to the Jewish crowd, "Behold your King"?
 - c) How would you describe to an unbeliever what Jesus dying on the cross means to you?
- 7) What biblical examples can you recall in which individuals experienced Greater Freedom, Greater Service or Greater Revelation because of going through an uncomfortable situation?
 - d) How has going through an uncomfortable situation in your life enabled you to experience Greater Freedom, Greater Service or Greater Revelation as a result?
- 8) Read Mark 4:35-41: Describe the revelation that the disciples were able to see from this experience.
- 9) Read Matthew 11:28-30: What should our response be when we are in a "storm" in our lives or are experiencing an uncomfortable situation that we had not planned for or anticipated?