

Dive Deeper into Ken's message "Was Crucified, Died and Was Buried" from 5-25-25

Bible Study Questions

1. The Core Gospel Message

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 **Question:** According to Paul, what are the four essential elements of the gospel message that he received and passed on to the Corinthian church? How does this compare to what you would consider the "most important" aspects of Christianity?

2. Jesus' Prediction of His Death

Scripture: Matthew 20:18-19 **Question:** Jesus predicted His own death multiple times. What does this tell us about His understanding of His mission? How should knowing that Jesus willingly went to His death impact our response to His sacrifice?

3. Pilate's Role in the Crucifixion

Scripture: Mark 15:6-15 **Question:** The sermon mentions that Pilate believed Jesus was innocent yet still condemned Him to death for political reasons. What does this reveal about the nature of human justice versus God's justice? How do we sometimes compromise our convictions for social or political pressure?

4. The Reality of Christ's Death

Scripture: John 19:31-37 **Question:** Why is it important that we have multiple witnesses and physical evidence of Jesus' actual death? How does the certainty of His death strengthen the power of His resurrection?

5. Our Role in Christ's Death

Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-6 **Question:** The sermon states "we all killed Jesus" through our sins. How does understanding your personal responsibility for Christ's death change your perspective on sin and forgiveness? What does it mean that "the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all"?

6. Christ's Willing Sacrifice

Scripture: John 10:17-18 **Question:** Jesus said no one could take His life from Him, but that He laid it down willingly. What does this reveal about the nature of His love for us? How does knowing Christ chose to die for you personally impact your relationship with Him?

7. The Prophetic Nature of Christ's Death

Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-12 **Question:** How does Isaiah 53, written hundreds of years before Christ, demonstrate God's eternal plan of salvation? What comfort does it bring to know that Christ's death was not an accident but part of God's predetermined plan?

8. The Continuity of the Gospel

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 **Question:** Paul emphasizes that the gospel he preached was the same gospel they believed and were being saved by. Why is it important that the Christian message hasn't changed over 2,000 years? How can we ensure we're believing and sharing the authentic gospel?

9. Multiple Witnesses to Christ's Death

Scripture: Mark 15:39-47 **Question:** The sermon mentions Romans, Jews, disciples, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, and the women all witnessed Jesus' death and burial. Why did God provide so many witnesses? How does this historical testimony strengthen your faith?

10. The Apostles' Creed and Biblical Truth

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:16 **Question:** The Apostles' Creed summarizes core Christian beliefs about Christ's death and resurrection. How do creeds and confessions help preserve biblical truth across generations? What role should they play in our personal faith and church life?

11. The Substitutionary Nature of Christ's Death

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:21 **Question:** The sermon emphasizes that Christ died "for our sins" and took our punishment. What does it mean that Jesus became sin for us so we could become the righteousness of God? How should this truth transform how we view ourselves and others?

12. Our Response to Christ's Sacrifice

Scripture: Romans 12:1-2 **Question:** Given the magnitude of Christ's willing sacrifice for our sins, what should be our appropriate response? How can we live in a way that honors the price He paid for our salvation? What does it mean to be a "living sacrifice" in light of His death for us?

Discussion Questions

1. Personal Gospel Understanding

Question: The sermon emphasized that Paul passed on "the most important thing" - the gospel message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. If someone asked you to explain the gospel in your own words, how would you summarize it? What aspects do you find most compelling or difficult to explain?

2. Historical Certainty and Faith

Question: Ken provided extensive evidence for the historical reality of Jesus' death. How important is historical evidence to your faith? Do you find it strengthening, or do you rely more on personal experience and spiritual conviction? Share your thoughts on the relationship between faith and evidence.

3. Confronting Personal Responsibility

Question: The sermon stated that "we all killed Jesus" through our sins. This can be an uncomfortable truth to face. How do you personally wrestle with the idea that your sins contributed to Christ's death? How has this understanding evolved in your spiritual journey?

4. The Mel Gibson Illustration

Question: Ken shared how Mel Gibson put his own hand holding the nail in "The Passion of the Christ" to symbolize that his sin nailed Jesus to the cross. If you were to create a visual representation of your own responsibility for Christ's death, what would it look like? How do you personally connect with this truth?

5. Living with Gratitude vs. Guilt

Question: Understanding that Christ died for our sins can lead to either overwhelming gratitude or paralyzing guilt. How do you find the balance between acknowledging your need for forgiveness while not being crushed by shame? What helps you move from guilt to gratitude?

6. The "Good Person" Dilemma

Question: The sermon mentioned that "most of us think of ourselves as pretty good people... or at least we're not as bad as the fellow next door." How do you struggle with this comparison mentality? What helps you see your need for Christ when you feel like you're "not that bad"?

7. God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Question: The sermon explained that while humans killed Jesus, it was ultimately God's predetermined plan. How do you understand the tension between human responsibility for sin and God's sovereign plan? How does this affect how you view difficult circumstances in your own life?

8. Generational Faith Transmission

Question: Paul passed the gospel to Timothy, Titus, and others, who passed it to the next generation. Think about your own spiritual journey - who "passed on" the gospel to you? How are you currently passing it on to others, whether family, friends, or community?

9. The Willing Sacrifice

Question: Jesus said "No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily." How does knowing that Christ chose to die for you, rather than being forced, change how you view His love? Share about a time when someone made a significant sacrifice for you willingly.

10. Responding to Overwhelming Love

Question: The hymn quoted asks, "What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend?" Sometimes Christ's sacrifice can feel so overwhelming that we don't know how to respond adequately. How do you express gratitude for something so profound? What are practical ways you show thankfulness for Christ's death?

11. The Communion Connection

Question: The sermon ended with communion, connecting Christ's death to our ongoing spiritual nourishment. How has your understanding and experience of communion evolved over time? What helps you connect meaningfully with Christ's sacrifice during communion?

12. Living in Light of the Cross

Question: Ken prayed for sanctification, enlightenment, and strengthening through receiving Christ's body and blood. How should the reality of Christ's death practically change how we live day-to-day? What would your life look like if you truly lived every day conscious of the cross?