

Welcome to Rev Darren King's Bible Study – 15 September 2024

PENTECOST 17

WHY MUST WE CARRY A CROSS?

Opening Prayer (please pray together)

Dear Lord, we praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection; for the gift of your Spirit; and for the hope of sharing in this glory, Amen.

Welcome 🙏

1 How are you travelling? How are you coping with the way our planet is at the moment? Please share your struggles.

Music Worship 🎵 Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Read Psalm 22 one paragraph, each person in turn.

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? ² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ⁸ "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. ¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. ¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. ¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

²⁰ Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. ²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen. ²² I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honour him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. ²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. ²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Word: Mark 8.31-38

Jesus Predicts His Death ³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

The Way of the Cross ³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

COMMENTARY **The redemptive mission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ can only be embraced by relinquishing human autonomy and submitting to divine lordship as a genuine disciple. This will include rejection and suffering!**

Q 2 Why must we carry a cross as Christians?

What do you think it means to carry a cross? Please discuss

Q 3 Humans love authority, rank and status.

When we pick up our cross we are reminded that we are NOT the centre of the universe and our suffering is part of our discipleship as Christians. Do you agree?

Q 4 As Christians do you feel it is important to stand up to injustice?

Q 5 Jesus telling us to pick up our cross is a reminder that each of us are responsible for his death? Do you agree with this statement?

Works

Pray for each other that sit at this table of Bible study.

Ending Prayer (please pray together)

Dear Lord, fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Our Saviour, Amen.

Shalom Rev Darren King (Roots on the web, The Message)