

Black Saturday

Matthew 27:55-66

Focus: on calling us to trust and love Jesus and to persevere in faithfulness in dark times

PLAN B:

- Break your group into 3 smaller groups and have one read about the women and their backgrounds, another Joseph, and another Nicodemus. Have each group read the available scriptures and bring their insights pertaining to their relationship to and faithfulness to Jesus. Here are key passages for each:

Mary Magdalene: Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1-19; Luke 8:2; 24:10; John 19:25; 20:1-18.

Mary, mother of James & Joseph: Matt. 27:56, 61; 28:1

The Mother of the sons of Zebedee: Matt. 4:21-22; 20:20-23; 27:56

Joseph: Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-53; and John 19:38-42.

Nicodemus: John 3:1-15; 7:50-52; 19:38-40

Discussion:

- Read the following accounts of the events on Good Friday that follow the cross and go into Black Saturday: Matt. 27:55-66; Mark 15:40-47; Luke 23:48-56; John 19:38-42
- In the sermon we focused on the faithfulness of 2 different sets of people: the women who followed Jesus and Joseph and Nicodemus. The women appear at the cross, at the tomb and at the resurrection. How does their faithfulness encourage you? Especially, how does the faithfulness of the 3 named ladies (Matt. 27:56, 61) encourage you in light of what you know about their backstories? This day would have been so very sad for them. How do you account for their faithfulness to Jesus even after His death?

OPTION: What does their privileged place as witnesses teach you about the place of women in God's plan?

- List all the insights from the various accounts that you can glean from Joseph and Nicodemus. What most impresses you about the boldness of Joseph and Nicodemus in light of who they were and their station in life? How does their boldness challenge you?
- What is your takeaway from studying the examples of these believers?



2017 Annual Priority:

To embrace & exalt Christ as most worthy in our lives, that we might: know Him truly, Love Him supremely, obey Him faithfully, and share Him gladly.