

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Crucifixion

Question. How do you understand crucifixion of Jesus?

Martin Luther's Theology of the Cross

“A theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross calls the thing what it actually is. This is clear: He who does not know Christ does not know **God hidden in suffering**. Therefore he prefers, works to suffering, glory to the cross, strength to weakness, wisdom to folly, and, in general, good to evil. These are the people whom the apostle calls “enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil. 3:18), for they hate the cross and suffering and love works and the glory of works. Thus they call the good of the cross evil and the evil of a deed good. God can be found only in suffering and the cross, as has already been said...” - Heidelberg Disputation (1518)

“God's revelation in the contrary” (*revelatio Dei sub contrario*)

a. Suffering of the Righteous

Those righteous desired intimacy with God more than anything (Psalm 44:15-17)

b. Suffering for People

The Servant Songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-8, 50:4-9, 52:13-53:12)

Atonement (*hilastērion*) (**Rom. 3:25-26**)

Ransom (*lytron*) (**Mark 10:45, Matt. 20:28**, 1 Cor. 6:20)

Sacrifice (Gal. 1:4, 2:20, Rom. 8:32)

c. Greatest Love

Mission out of God's Love (John 3:16, 12:27-30, 14:31, Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22)

Jesus' Love to His Friends (John 13:1, 15:13)

d. Judgment and Victory, and Glory

Judgment upon and Victory over the Darkness (John 12:31, 16:11 and 33, 18:6)

Glory or Revelation (3:14, 8:28, 12:32)

### 3. Read Ch. 15

### 4. Discussion

- a. Why do you think Jesus was silent before Pilate?
- b. Do you know anyone who was given a special pardon by the president? What do you think of the special pardon in this chapter?
- c. How would you imagine Barabbas?
- d. Why do you think Pilates said it in verse 9?
- e. What is the irony in verses 16 – 20?
- f. In verse 23, why didn't Jesus take the wine?
- g. What is the implication of darkness in verse 33 and the curtain in verse 38?
- h. How do you understand the confession of the centurion?

### 5. Closing Prayer