

**“The Incomparable Christ of Our Mission”**  
*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Christ was pierced on purpose, his death was by design; make no mistake: our God is sovereign in salvation**

*\*Jesus gave himself for us on the cross to...(v.14a)*

1. ...set us \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14b)

2. ...wash us \_\_\_\_\_ of sin's \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14c)

3. ...take us \_\_\_\_\_ as his very \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14d)

4. ...send us \_\_\_\_\_ on his \_\_\_\_\_ (v.14e)

v.15...

**Next Week: Titus 3:1-2**

## MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of May 31st - June 6th

### Getting Started

1. David Prior writes: “We never move on from the cross, only into a more profound understanding of the cross.” What does he mean? Have you found this to be true in your life? How? If not, would you like it to be true of you?

### Digging Deeper

2. D.A. Carson observes: “I fear the cross, without ever being disowned, is constantly in danger of being dismissed from the central place it must enjoy, by relatively peripheral insights that take on far too much weight. Whenever the periphery is in danger of displacing the center, we are not far removed from idolatry.” In view of the fact that Paul referred to the cross (alongside the empty tomb) to be the “matter of first importance” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), it would seem that Carson’s on to something here. Do you agree with him? In what ways do you find this to be regrettably true? What sorts of practical strategies can we pursue to correct this tendency?

### Open Your Bible to Luke 23:26-43...

3. In verse 26, we are told that a man named Simon of Cyrene is compelled to carry Jesus’ cross. What else do we learn about Simon in Mark 15:21? It’s possible that Mark wrote his Gospel from Rome. If this is true, what else do we discover in Romans 16:13? Why difference does this make and what sort of a story does it potentially tell for us?

4. Why does Jesus tell the mourners not to weep for him but for themselves and their children (vv.27-30)? What is the meaning of verse 31? How do you know?

5. In verse 33, we read the words “they crucified him”. Interestingly, Luke makes no attempt to offer a theological interpretation of the cross at this point. How does Paul provide us with the biblical explanation in passages like Romans 3:21-26, Colossians 2:13-15, and Titus 2:14 that we lack in Luke 23:33?

6. Who is Jesus referring to in v.34? Who is “them”? How do you know? What is the significance of this prayer? Have you ever prayed this way? If so, share about it with the group.

7. According to vv.39-43, what specific evidences of repentance do you see in the second thief? James 2:17 says that faith apart from works is dead. Likewise, in Titus 2:14, Jesus “gave himself for us” in order to call out a people “zealous for good works”. Similarly, Hebrews 12:14 tells us that without holiness, no one will see the Lord. Taking Jesus’ promise to the man at face value (v.43), what were his good works? How did the thief demonstrate the holiness without which no one will see the Lord?

8. The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time, so close your meeting as a group praying by name for those on your ‘List of 5’. Who (from your ‘List of 5’) might you this week look to listen to, care for, include in an upcoming Community Group Zoom call, or offer the resources of our compassion or biblical counseling ministries?