

ENCOUNTERING THE CROSS Sunday March 8, 2020

What Life Memories Do You Regularly Remember?

He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you."
Luke 22:19, 20 (NLT)

Encountering The Cross....

Demonstrates God's Endless LOVE For Us.

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.
1 John 4:10 (NLT)

Offers The Fullness of God's FORGIVENESS

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Col 2:13-14 (NLT)

Provides HEALING For My Life

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. Isaiah 53:5 (NLT)

Provides FREEDOM Through Surrendering

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. Romans 6:6 (NLT)

Gives HOPE For The Future

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NLT)

On the Cross Jesus wins through losing, triumphs through defeat, achieves power through weakness, comes to wealth through giving all away. Timothy Keller

The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man.
John Stott

Jesus who died on the cross is indeed king – conqueror of death and sin, Lord and Saviour of all. The resurrection is not the reversal of a defeat but the proclamation of a victory. The King reigns from the tree. The reign of God has indeed come upon us, and its sign is not a golden throne but a wooden cross. Lesslie Newbigin

I am convinced that when we bring our griefs and sorrows within the story of God's own grief and sorrow, and allow them to be held there, God is able to bring healing to us and new possibilities to our lives.
N.T. Wright