

The Sign of the Cross (The Epic of the Cross Series – Part I)

3/1/2009

1. When you see a cross, what does it mean to you? What goes through your mind?
2. Do any of the thoughts or meanings shared above have any connection to the meaning of the cross on the day Jesus underwent crucifixion?
3. Read Mark 8:27 – 30 and reflect on the first rebuke of Peter by Jesus as discussed by Pastor Steve.
4. Continue reading Mark 8:31 - 38. Why is Jesus picking on Peter so much? This incident is also found in Matt. 16:21-23, so it must be significant.
5. Pastor Steve described attributes of modern Christians that have parallels to Peter's viewpoint. How would you summarize them?
6. As described by Pastor Steve, what is the difference between the crucifixion and the cross?
7. How does the cross define our relationship with God?
8. Mark 8:34 challenges anyone who would follow Jesus to take up his own cross. Reread it and then read 1Peter 4:1-2; 12-16. Does this mean we should go looking for ways in which to suffer – and that we are not good Christians if we are not suffering?

7. Toward the end of the sermon, Pastor Steve acknowledged that we all look at the cross from different angles based on our own experiences and then summed up three meanings that we can get from the cross. What were they and how does each of them apply to me?

a.

b.

c.

8. At the start of the sermon, Pastor Steve talked about our need to define our relationships, to take stock of where we are and what our expectations might be for the future. In your next quiet time, sit down with God and together define your relationship. Select one of the passages above and consider what it says to you as far as what you do and who you are today, tomorrow, and for the rest of your life.