

With Borrowed Breath **(The Epic of the Cross Series – Part VI)**

4/5/2009

1. Pastor Steve opened with an observation that identity theft is a growing problem. What motivates people to want to steal someone else's identity?

2. Pastor Steve then said that taking the name of Jesus was different from taking His identity. How are these two things different? What does it look like to take on the identity of Christ?

3. Read Matthew 16:21-23. Peter was a follower of Jesus (we would call him a Christian), yet Jesus had strong words in rebuke for him. What was the problem?

4. a) Read Mark 10:32-34. What strikes you about this passage?

 b) Read Mark 10:35-37. What is the response of the disciples to this startling revelation?

5. Pastor Steve then described our identity becoming intertwined with that of Christ in the same way the plants can become intertwined with each other. He ended by saying that the cross is not one man dying for us, but us dying with Him. What do these two images say to you?

6. The primary Bible passage for this week was 2 Cor. 4:7-12, 15. Read it and then consider the following:
 - a) What is "this treasure" identified in v. 7

b) What is the earthen vessel or jar of clay that holds this treasure?

c) In v. 8-9 Paul describes the plight of the early Christians. What does it tell you about their life?

d) In v. 10-12, there are multiple references to our earthly bodies. What does it say to you?

e) Why did Paul and the early church submit to such persecution (see. v. 15)?

7. So how do we avoid being Christians in name but not identity? How do we make sure we are truly with Him and He is in us?