

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 30, 2014

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 19:41-2	Tuesday	Mark 3:1-6	Wednesday	Matthew 14:13-21
Thursday	Philippians 2:1-11	Friday	James 1:21-27	Saturday	Luke 9:23-5

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *From Me to We*

Next week's readings:

Join us next week as we continue our series, Because He Died, where we explore what the cross of Jesus means for our life today. Next Sunday, we will look at how the cross can move us from a self-centered vision of life where we are just concerned with our own life to a Christ-centered vision of life where we are connected and care about the needs of others.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>What is a cause or organization you care about deeply? When and how did you start caring about it?</p>
Learn	<p>Throughout the gospels (and the Bible), we see that Jesus is anything but an indifferent, frozen God. In Jesus, we see that God cares deeply for the hurting world we live in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Mark 3:1-6 and Luke 19:41-42. What do you notice about Jesus' heart? What makes him angry? How do we see his compassion in action?• Contrast the word "indifference" with "compassion." Have everyone in your group repeat the following phrase out loud. God is indifferent. Now, try the phrase. God is compassionate. What does gut-level response does each word bring up for you? <p>In the cross, we see the climax of God's passionate love for a broken world. Because he died, we know God cares.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you think are some of the factors that make people wonder whether or not God cares for us? If a friend of yours who is not a Christian asked you something like, "Jesus died on the cross so long ago, how does the cross shows us that God cares about us today?" What would you say?• Read Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 5:6-8, and I John 3:16 from the New Testament letters about how the cross helped the first Christians know God's care for them. How might these passages shape your conversation with a friend that is not yet a Christian? <p>In the cross, we not only see God's care for the world, but how God wants to share his passion with us as his followers. The cross not only shows us God's passion, but is meant to move our hearts from indifference to compassion. Discuss how the moments in Matthew 14:13-21 and Luke 9:23-5 of the disciples' lives helped them to discover Jesus' desire to share his mission with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the midst of a world with "incredible need" and "incredible immorality," how does the cross help us to see how we are to go about our mission as followers of Jesus?• Why is both caring for those in need and denying ourselves essential for growing in Christian maturity?
Apply	<p>When you think about your life, which area is more convicting to you as an area of growth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The call to have compassion for those around you?• The call to deny yourself and trust God with your needs? <p>How is God's Spirit stirring you to grow in "taking up your cross" to share God's heart for the world?</p>
Pray	<p>Spend some time praying for each other, our church, and community that we would know the compassion of God in our lives and share God's heart in our lives and relationships.</p>