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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Forsaken for Our Sake

Mark 15:16-41

Series: Getting In on the Good News

The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Mark 15:33–39 (NIV) — **33** At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34** And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). **35** When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." **36** Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. **37** With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. **38** The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **39** And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Central Thought: We get in on the Good News when we see in the brutal, humiliating crucifixion of Jesus – forsaken by God and men – the clearest expression of God's character, the depth of his love for his creation and his solidarity with the oppressed and the forsaken.

The Cross of Jesus...

❖ Reveals what God is really like.

Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) — **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and **the exact representation of his being...** (See also Colossians 1:19)

○ If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus!

❖ Demonstrates the depths of his love.

John 3:16–17 (NIV) — **16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

○ In giving his son, God gave us himself!

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 (NLT) — **18** And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. **19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself,** no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

John 14:10–11 (NIV) — **10** Don't you believe that **I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?** The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me;** or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

❖ Communicates God's solidarity with the oppressed, the persecuted and the abandoned.

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV) — **3** He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

○ God has an experiential understanding of your pain!

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NLT) — **14** So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. **15** This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. **16** So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.