



Sunday of the Holy Cross

Many of us don't stop to think too much about the cross. Instead, we want to focus on the resurrection. But, according to the gospels, the glory of God isn't revealed through the resurrection--after all, the women found an *empty tomb*. God's glory is revealed through the cross. We see Jesus to be King by the way he dies as a common criminal outside the walls of Jerusalem. The cross is strength through weakness.

Scripture: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Bottom Line: With the cross . . . losing is winning!

Discussion Questions

1. Read through Mark 8:34-38; 9:1. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "For the person who wants to save their own life will lose it"?
2. How do you think you can lose your life for the gospel? How will you put that into action?
3. Jesus talks about being ashamed of him. Are there aspects of the gospel that you're ashamed of? What are they?
4. The Divine Liturgy has been called the "Heavenly Banquet" and "Heaven on Earth." With this in mind, what do you think Jesus meant when he said, "There are some here who will not die until they have seen the Kingdom of God"?
5. In what areas of your life do you need to pick up your cross and follow Jesus?

Moving Forward

Picking up your cross to follow Jesus is a radical idea. If you've picked up your cross, it means you have minutes to live before you're put to death. It means your life should be a reflection of the Gospel--a message to others about following Christ. This week, how will you demonstrate your commitment to Christ by the way you live your life?

Changing Your Mind

"For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me and for the gospel, you will save it. Do you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life?" (Mark 8:35-36 GNT)