



The Cross of Christ

A Love Greater than Grief
Matthew 17:22-27

And the disciples were filled with grief. (v23)

Walking 27 miles back to familiar Capernaum – Jesus repeats;

I will be betrayed – killed – raised to life

Paying the Temple Tax

A voluntary tax on every Jewish man over 20 years old.

Jesus clarifies his _____

Verifies his _____

“what are the odds?” miracle

Jesus is greater than the _____ (Matt 12:6-7)

Things of Value

Grief happens when we lose what we value.

Jesus lets the grief _____

God’s embrace is greater than grief.

The power of “WE”

Through the cross we are _____ of God.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,
...so that we might receive adoption as children.*

*...God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 4:4-6*

The Love of God – the Cross of Christ – is Greater!



Getting Started

As you feel comfortable, share a time of significant grief in your life. What helped you through?

Scripture

Compare **Matthew 16:21-22** & **Matthew 17:22-23**

Back to back Jesus is recorded speaking on the same topic.

Identify as many differences and as many similarities as you can between the two passages. What do you see as you compare and contrast, what might it mean?

Going Deeper

Before reviewing the sermon together, reread **Matthew 16:24-27**

Review the sermon and discuss what stood out to you as worth remembering, something inspirational, or something questionable and worth discussion from the message.

Going back to the Sermon on the Mount (Mat 5-7), Jesus refers to God as Father 17 times. Why do you think Jesus chose this language? How does it speak to you?

Jesus experienced grief (Luke 19:41, John 11:35), how does this connect to Jesus' role presented in **Hebrews 2:9-15**?

SIDE BAR

Church buildings are not addressed directly in the Bible (they didn't exist yet). However, synagogues were common and used by Jesus and his followers – and they are not spoken against. We see Jesus paying the temple tax. What do you see as the positives of building and maintaining church structures? What do you see as the negatives? How should ERC think about our buildings?

Application

How can you act as one of God's children with others face grief?