

## WHICH SIDE OF THE CROSS ARE YOU ON?

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**When It All Went Down // John 19:17-24**

### Sermon Context

This week's passage covers three events: Jesus carrying His cross to Golgotha and being crucified between two criminals (vv. 17–18); Pilate affixing an inscription above His head that the chief priests wanted changed (vv. 19–22); and Roman soldiers dividing Jesus' garments and casting lots for His seamless tunic, unwittingly fulfilling Psalm 22:18 (vv. 23–24). The sermon asked three diagnostic questions to help us answer the overarching question: Which side of the cross are you on? (1) Are you carrying your own cursed cross, or did Jesus carry it for you? (2) Is Jesus your King, or are you looking for other kings? (3) Do you seek Christ for your personal gain, or are you satisfied with God's pierced gift?

### CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. How has praying for “Your One” gone this week? Any updates on “Your One”?
2. If someone asked you to describe in one sentence who Jesus is to you — not a theological answer, but the most honest, personal answer you could give — what would you say?
3. Share about a moment when you were physically close to something very significant — maybe a historic site, a major event, or even a person — but it didn't really hit you until later how meaningful it was. What was it?

### REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

4. Read John 19:12-16 aloud together. What phrases do you notice repeated or emphasized? What feels shocking or backward? What stood out from Sunday's message? What encouraged or challenged you?
5. Pastor Jeremy said: 'John wants us to see that only Jesus could do what really mattered with this cross. Only Jesus could die on this cross to forgive the sins of the world.' What is the difference between the cross of judgment that Jesus bore and the cross of discipleship we are called to carry daily (Gal. 2:20; Luke 9:23)? Why is it important not to confuse these two?
6. How does the reality that Jesus carried the cursed cross for us change the way we approach our own daily cross of discipleship?
7. What does the thief on the cross teach us about salvation by grace alone, and how does his story challenge our tendency toward works-based righteousness?
8. The chief priests didn't deny Jesus existed — they just wanted to change what was written about who He is. In what ways do people today — inside and outside the church — try to 'rewrite' Jesus into a version they find more acceptable? What are the 'other kings' that compete for people's ultimate allegiance?

9. The inscription on the cross was written in three languages so the whole world could understand. How does this challenge us regarding global missions and sharing the gospel across cultural boundaries?
10. In what ways might we be like the soldiers at the foot of the cross, standing close to Jesus but missing Him entirely because we're focused on lesser things?
11. How does understanding that Jesus was forsaken by God the Father so we wouldn't have to be deepen your appreciation for what happened on the cross?
12. Pastor Jeremy said that Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 read almost like 'paraphrases of John 19' — written centuries before the cross. What does it mean for your faith — and specifically for the way you approach hard seasons — to know that God foreordained every detail of the cross (including that even the soldiers' gambling was part of His sovereign plan)?
13. Pastor Jeremy asked which side of the cross you are on. How would you honestly answer that question today, and what might need to change in your life as a result?

#### 🕒 PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

1. The sermon ended with an urgent question: 'Which side of the cross are you on?' Is there anyone in your life — a friend, family member, coworker — who you sense is 'close to the cross' but hasn't made it their own? What's one step you could take this week to share the gospel with them?
2. Watch [this 4 minute video](#) together. Then practice together creating your 15-second testimony. Share it with one another.
3. Are you carrying anything this week that feels like a weight too heavy to bear alone — in your work, your family, your health, your faith? How can this group come alongside you?

#### **Prayer focus:**

Close your time together by praying specifically for one another using the three themes of this passage:

- **The Cross We Didn't Carry** — Thank God that Christ bore the cross of judgment we deserved. Pray for anyone in your group (or in your lives) who needs to embrace this truth for the first time.
- **The King We Won't Rewrite** — Pray for the grace to receive Jesus as He is — not as we prefer Him to be. Ask God to expose and dislodge any 'other kings' competing for your ultimate allegiance this week.
- **The Gift We Won't Miss** — Pray for open eyes to see what the cross truly offers — not just blessings and benefits, but the pierced and risen Savior Himself. Pray for your 'Ones' — the specific people God has placed in your life who need to hear the gospel.



## Announcements

**Chili Cook Youth Fundraiser: Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> After 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: [Kiln Student Ministry: Chili Cook Off Youth Fundraiser](#)**

**Journey to the Cross: Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Time TBD)**

**Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am**

**Easter Services: Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am.**

## Resources for Going Deeper

**Get to the Cross and Never Leave (Desiring God / David Mathis)**

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/get-to-the-cross-and-never-leave>