

May 9, 2021

Happy Mother's Day

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

The GOSPEL // Episode 4 : The Cross

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." ²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

There is a difference between "the cross" and "the message of the cross".

The Reckoning: The cross is the place where God had a reckoning with sin.

- The cross is the **centerpiece** of human history.
- The cross is the place where all human sin was paid for, by the **blood of Jesus**.
 - **Romans 3:23** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 - Only God could pay God's price.

Vs. 18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

- **Foolishness** - Mankind sees the message of the cross as foolishness.
- **Power** - The power of God is released in reckless reliance on the divine.
 - **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*
- **Wisdom** - The wisdom of God knows that mankind cannot save themselves.

Vs. 21 *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. (FAITH)*

Vs. 25 *For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.*

Small Group Questions:

1. Can you articulate the message of the cross into one sentence?
2. **Vs. 18** says that, "*the message of the cross is foolishness to those that are perishing.*" Why do you think people see the message of the cross as foolish?
3. **Vs. 23** says that preaching the message of a Crucified Christ becomes a *stumbling block to many*. Why do you think that this is?
4. The message of the cross is called "*the Power of God*" in verse 18. What are some of the aspects of God's power that we find displayed in the message of the cross?
5. Can you describe what happened on the cross?