**Victory Series Session 2**

Last Week we looked at how we need to prepare for victory in our lives.

This week we will be looking at what the Cross has to do with victory in our lives.

Sharing: Turn to the person next to you and ask them: “What does the cross mean to you?”

Have any of you seen the movie: Saving private Ryan?

In the movie a small group of soldiers are sent behind enemy lines under the leadership of Captain Miller (played by Tom Hanks) to rescue Private Ryan because 3 of his brothers had just been killed in action and the army did not want his Mother to lose another son!

Some of the men, including Captain Miller, sacrifice their lives trying to save him but in the end the mission is successful because Private Ryan is saved!

Soldiers always look after their own - even being willing to go on a mission to rescue one of their own - they never leave anyone behind!

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* (Hebrews 12:2). What was the joy set before Jesus? It was bringing us back into a relationship with Father God! Restoring lost sons and daughters into the kingdom! Like Captain Miller who set out to save private Ryan – Jesus set out with a mission to save us through his death on the cross.

The cross was the central message of the New Testament apostles. To understand and experience the cross of Christ, we must understand the three things that happened on the cross. But first here is a video from the movie, Son of God.

**1. Suffering.** Jesus suffered the pain of the cross because of my sins. *He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds.* (Isaiah 53:5)

**2. Substitution.** Jesus took our place on the cross, becoming our sin and suffering our punishment, so we could receive his righteousness. *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**3. Salvation.** Jesus came to seek and save the Lost – to save sinners from the wrath of God. *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* (1 Timothy 1:15). *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* (Romans 5:9)

**Why Did We Need To Be Saved?**

**G**od created us to be with him.

**O**ur sins separate us from God.

**S**ins cannot be removed by good deeds.

**P**aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

**E**veryone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

**L**ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

How Should We Respond to What Jesus Did on the Cross?

**1. Repent of all sin.** R*epent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.* (Acts 3:19)

**2. Receive forgiveness for Sin.** *People who believe in the one named Jesus receive forgiveness for their sins through him.* (Acts 10:43)

**3. Remember the price he paid for our sin.** *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David.* (2 Timothy 2:8)

If you have never received Jesus as your Saviour – now is a good time to receive him as your Lord and Saviour! Let’s all stand. If you have never asked Jesus to be your Saviour, I want you to raise your hand so I can pray with you.

The Prayer of Salvation: *Dear God, thank you that you created me to be with you. I know that my sins separate me from you and that I cannot remove my sins through good deeds. Thank you that Jesus died to pay for my sins and right now I put my trust in you alone and I receive your free gift of eternal life. Thank you that eternal life starts now and lasts forever. Amen.*

Challenge: If you prayed that prayer for the first time then please come forward so I can pray for you.

The cross has everything to do with victory! “Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval.” (1 Peter 2:24)

**Small Group Questions:**

(1) What did Jesus do for you while he was on earth?

(2) Are you saved? How do you know you are saved?

(3) What difference does it make to your life?

Let’s pray!

Next Week we will be looking at how our identity affects our victory.