

WEEK FIVE

Jesus as Redeemer

Context for Week Five:

We have a guest speaker this weekend. His personal story of coming to faith gives a very strong example of how God can redeem a life. His story ties in neatly with Pete's video "Christ as Redeemer."

The video is a longer version this week and it is excellent. The video format is in a dialogue form between Pete and his son, Peter. I would encourage you to view it more than one time prior to showing it in your group. It might be worth showing twice in your group meeting. I would encourage your group members to jot down notes on their thoughts from the video.

CHRIST AS REDEEMER

Facilitator:

Based on Sanj's story or the Sunday evening meeting where his wife (Kay) spoke, you might want to take feedback from your group on how his or her sharing personally impacted them.

Question: Would anyone like to share your thoughts from listening to Sanj or his wife speak over the weekend?

Facilitator:

I am enclosing a Scripture document that supports the video references. **Tip:** You may wish to read through these as a group prior to jumping into the discussion of the videos and then refer back to them when appropriate.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Facilitator: The central idea of Christ giving his life as a "ransom" is unpacked in the dialogue between Pete and Peter early in the video, focusing on Mark 10:45. Thought: I found this section to be especially meaningful and full of imagery. It might be worth re-watching after viewing the video as a group.

Mark 10: 35-45 (verse 45 emphasized)

³⁵ Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. “Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” ³⁶ “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. ³⁷ They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory.” ³⁸ “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?” ³⁹ “We can,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.” ⁴¹ When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. ⁴² Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to **give his life as a ransom** for many.”

Question: What did you think of the deeper discussion between Pete and Peter as they taught on slavery and how Christ deals with slavery?

Facilitator: Peter refers to the “Sermon on the Mount” and Jesus’ teaching on our lives and not to worry about the day-to-day part of life (what you eat, drink, wear, etc.). In Mark 10:45, a different Greek word is used which refers to “ransom or redemption.” When unpacked, this word means that Christ gave the totality of his life (everything) to ransom or redeem us. Redemption was His sole purpose for living. Christ challenges us to do the same, “Lay down our lives to serve Him.”

Question: What are some of the challenges that come to mind when you think about the whole of your life to belong to Christ?

Facilitator: Peter Hartwig refers to the Apostle Paul in the opening words of the book of Romans, who identifies himself as a “slave” or “bond slave” to Christ (Romans 12:1). He contrasts this with a popular mindset for Christians that summarizes something like this: becoming a Christian is more than adding a badge to our coat that we carry around with us through life; redemption calls for a response from us to action.

Facilitator: Read Romans 1:1-4 as a group

Romans 1: 1-4

I Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the ^[d]Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Discussion: When you think of the words “bond slave” and “set apart” mentioned in the previous Scripture, what thoughts come to mind?

Facilitator: Pete and Peter share later in the video about what it takes for the Christian life to work. It involves a process of surrender and turning the totality of our lives over to Christ.

Pete jumps in and shares about the importance of responding to Christ’s laying down his life for us so that we have the opportunity to experience grace and forgiveness. Responding in like manner as a bond-slave (one bought by Christ’s sacrifice) is the path to the full life that Christ offers!

Peter adds: It does not mean that all of life will be “easy.” The world is often not particularly friendly to Christians and can be hard, disheartening, and even oppressive. It does not mean that the world is particularly hard for Christians, and not for those outside the faith...the world is a hard place-----in walking this life out, keep in the forefront of your faith that Christ not only paid our ransom, He is the Lord of the world.

Facilitator: Read Philippians 3: 3-16 as a group underlining key words and phrases:

Philippians 3:3-16

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do:

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

*¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶**Only let us live up to what we have already attained.***

Discussion:

- [Ask for feedback from the group on words and phrases that stood out to them as this passage was read.
- [What are your thoughts about the talk that Pete and Peter had that focused on life sometimes being hard as a Christian? Does Paul's example of counting all things as loss, for the sake of knowing Christ resonate with you?
- [Is there one thing from today's small group discussion or the weekend messages where you sense God is challenging you to take an action step to more deeply embrace Christ's offer of redemption? If so, would you like to share it with the group?

Facilitator: Closing Prayer

Ask if there is anyone in the group that does not know Jesus. If so, ask them if they would like to take that step today. If so, pray with them.

