



Passion

THE ROAD to the CROSS

Pastor Dave Patterson Passion Pt 4 The Crown of Thorns

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[2 Corinthians 5:15,17-19]

*He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! **And all of this is a gift from God**, who brought us back to himself through Christ. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, **no longer counting people's sins against them.***

[Psalm 103:12]

as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

[ISAIAH 53:3-9]

*He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was **our weaknesses he carried**; it was **our sorrows** that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for **our rebellion**, crushed for **our sins**. He was beaten **so we could be whole**. He was whipped **so we could be healed**. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him **the sins of us all**. He was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

[Mark 15:16-20]

The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship...then they led him away to be crucified.

[Genesis 3:17]

"...the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains."

[Numbers 33:55]

But if you fail to drive out the pagans from the land , those who remain will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides.

[Proverbs 22:5]

Corrupt people walk a thorny, treacherous road;

[Luke 22:44 (AMP)]

And being in agony [deeply distressed and anguished; almost to the point of death], He prayed more intently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down on the ground.

[Isaiah 53:5 (Amp)]

The punishment required to bring us peace fell on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed.

1. **Recognize** the price that was paid
2. **Receive** it by faith (*prayer and confession*)
3. **Cast** all your anxiety and fear on Him (1 Peter 5:7)
4. **Refocus** your mind and heart

[Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)]

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you invite someone to this weekends service?
2. What does it mean when the Psalmist said that God has removed our sin as far as the east is from the west?
3. Have you ever suffered with stress or anxiety? Have you ever experienced the peace of God overwhelming your despair?
4. Have you ever carried the weight of humanity for too long? What challenges do we face when it comes to truly laying down all our cares at the feet of the cross?
5. Can you try and describe the freedom you have found through Christ?

6. What thorns in your life are you still carrying? Spend some time praying for each other and declare over one another that the thorns have no authority in your life anymore. Declare the freedom Jesus provided us at the cross would become a reality in our lives.