

5. How does suffering refine or grow your faith (personally)?

6. We don't need to go out and look for suffering, but there are ways we are tempted to take an illegitimate shortcut to avoid suffering? What shortcuts are you tempted to take to avoid suffering?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

### **Missional Application**

God calls us to proclaim not only that Jesus died on the cross but also why he died.

### **Christ Connection**

Unjustly condemned to death, Jesus willingly took up his cross and suffered the judgment our sins deserve. At the moment he died, the curtain in the temple sanctuary was torn in two, signifying the truth that sinners have access to God through the blood of Christ. The crucifixion of Jesus is the center of history, revealing God's holiness and justice, our sinfulness and unrighteousness, and Christ's humility and love.

### **Jesus the Savior (Part 2)**

"3 Faith Shortcuts that Lead You Nowhere"

Matthew 27:32-56

"If you're the Son of God, surely you have the power to get yourself down from that cross right now." That's a shortcut that would lead Jesus nowhere.

### **3 Faith Shortcuts that Lead You Nowhere**

#### **1. Discipleship without Saturation**

It's attempting to follow Jesus without saturation in Christ's teaching, in God's Word, in the Bible, in the story of God.

What does this look like?

- When our devotional life consists of nothing more substantial than a verse-of-the-day in our inbox.
- When the level of our interaction with Scripture in our faith community leaves us biblically illiterate.
- When we remove Scripture from of the core essentials and foundations of our faith.

We are a story-formed, Word-formed people. Scripture shows us how to think—it shapes our worldview and perspective on everything. It shows us how to suffer and how to thrive, how to fail and how to win, how to reconcile and how to relate in love. It is God's primary way of speaking to us.

#### **2. Glory without Suffering**

Suffering, then glory, is how it works; there's no shortcut. Why?

- Many hated Jesus, so if we identify with Jesus, we will be hated by many. John 15: <sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."

- The world we live in is broken and evil often triumphs.  
John 16: <sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
- Suffering grows and refines our faith.  
Romans 5: <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope.  
1 Peter 1: <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.  
2 Corinthians 1: <sup>9</sup> ...But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

You can choose to pursue a path of glory without suffering, but when you do, you are no longer on the path of Christ or the path that leads to future glory.

How do you choose a path of glory without suffering?

- Hold on tightly to what you have.
- Keep your faith to yourself.

### 3. Righteousness without a Sacrifice

Biblical righteousness is a relational and legal term.

Our righteousness requires a sacrifice. Jesus is the sacrifice. He's the sacrificial lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

We're always trying to make ourselves righteous. (Galatians 2:21)

We think we're better than we are.

### Family Discussion Questions

1. Jesus was the Savior God promised, but how can someone who is dead save anyone?
2. What does it mean to say Jesus was our perfect substitute?
3. How should we respond to what Jesus did for us on the cross?

### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What are some of your favorite shortcuts or hacks?
3. Read Matthew 27:32-56. Why would it be tempting for Jesus to choose glory without suffering?
4. How can you pursue discipleship with saturation in God's Word?