

# The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

12/16/18

**Text: Mark 8:31-33, 9:31-32 & 10:32-34**

**Title: The Purpose of Christmas**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

***In Tim's sermon we looked at how Jesus did not simply come as a "Political Messiah", or a wise teacher, he came to save his people from their sins. He came to not only live a perfect life, but to suffer and die at the hands of the religious leaders. The reason the Gospel is so hard for the world to accept is that it doesn't make sense; how could suffering and death be the solution to our problem? And yet, God established this pattern all throughout the Old Testament; that a sacrifice, a death had to be offered if His people were to be saved; and the ultimate sacrifice would be God offering up himself. But the miracle of the gospel didn't end there. The reason we can hold on to an unshakable hope in Jesus is because he didn't just die, he rose again. And if Jesus can conquer the ultimate problem of death, then he can overcome any sin, suffering, brokenness or pain in our lives when he exchanges his life for ours. That is the miracle of Christmas***

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *Tim said, often Jesus brings us to points in our lives where nothing in this world can help, and we are left with the only option of turning to Him in faith.*
  - ***How prepared are you to suffer? What has prepared you, and how have you learned to look in faith to Jesus in those times?***
  - ***What promises has the world offered for your suffering that ultimately fail?***
  - ***In what ways do you prepare so that you won't have to suffer?***
2. *Tim said the reason the Gospel is so hard for the world is that it doesn't make sense. How can suffering and death be the answer to our problems of sin, suffering and death? We struggle to believe it because we don't think we need it, or don't believe God would willingly do that.*
  - ***Why is it hard to believe that it required the death of God himself to save you?***
3. *Tim said the reason the disciples, who hid when Jesus was crucified, could go and spread the gospel and die for the cause, is because they saw the risen Christ. A dead Jesus offers no hope, but one that has overcome death can overcome anything.*
  - ***Where do you still need Jesus to overcome in your life/work/ministry?***
  - ***Spend time worshiping Him in prayer, that he gave himself to die and rise again so that you could have hope in any circumstance, because you are His.***

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

#### **1. ADORATION (The Father)**

***Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions***

#### **2. CONFESSION (Me)**

***Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited***

#### **3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)**

***Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)***

#### **4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)**

***Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways***

#### **5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)**

***Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.***

### **Prayer Items**

- 1. Worship the LORD for His trustworthiness, especially in the face of all the world's promises that are never kept. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He can be trusted to keep His Word even to His own hurt.*
- 2. How have you sought to live without ever having to suffer? Confess your cowardice and folly to Jesus, asking Him to not only forgive you but also to secure you, eternally changing your heart by His love.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His resolve to satisfy justice for sinners like us who have rebelled. Thank Him for His work through suffering and death to conquer death by first dying and then being raised to life.*
- 4. Who do you know that is baffled by God's plan to work through death and resurrection? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to Jesus' power to save them from their sin and unbelief.*

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5. *Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight and confidence in Jesus' promises to raise you to new life with Him. Pray for joy and hope in Jesus' guarantee that He must be raised – and that He will resurrect us as He was resurrected.*