



Faces around the Cross

Study Guide
March 29, 2009

DRAFTED: SIMON OF CYRENE

Mark 15:21 – *“Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.”*

1. Have you ever been drafted into service? Explain.

Compelled – “to forcibly impress someone into service; to compel him to serve whether he likes it or not.”

- a. Describe a time that you felt compelled by another person to do some act of kindness?
 - b. How did you feel about it?
 - c. What were the results? Positive? Negative?
2. Pastor Mark points out that “ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.” Describe a time or an incident when you witnessed an action that spoke louder than words.
James 3:5-6 - Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.
 - a. Can you remember a time when your words were like “fire, a world of evil?”
 - b. How can we speak up, and when we do, make our words seasoned with grace and truth?
 - c. It has been said, “There is a time to speak less – and do more.” Pastor Mark commented, “There is little that does more damage to the cause of Christ than Christians who “talk a lot” about what it means to serve Jesus, but then they don’t live it out.” Can you give an example of this?
 3. SIMON SAYS: “LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON”
Mark 15:21 – “...Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus...”

One of the most powerful draws to Christianity is people who are the “real deal”. The home is the place where this can be seen the most because home is the place where we are known the best. How do people who don’t “walk the talk” cause problems in their family? ... in the family of God?

- a. You are best known in your own home. What areas do you struggle with in being an example for your family?

He stepped in to carry a heavy and dirty cross. The cross was a horrible and humiliating way to die. The person condemned to die had to carry their own cross. So when Simon carried Jesus’ cross – some in the crowd would have thought he was going to die – and in a way he did.

Dietrich Bonhoffer said: “When Jesus bids a man, He bids him to come and die!”

- b. What areas of your life is the Lord asking you to die to?

Please turn over.....

4. SIMON SAYS: "GOD'S AGENDA IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR AGENDA"

Mark 15:21 – "...as he was coming out of the country and passing by..."

We don't know for sure why Simon came to Jerusalem that day. In fact, there is some question about whether he was a Christ-follower when he was compelled to carry the cross. Some think he was a Jew and he was there for Passover. Some think he may have been in Jerusalem on business. But whatever his agenda was for being there, God had a different agenda... and Simon submitted to that agenda.

- a. What if you had been in Jerusalem and been drafted to carry His cross that day? What would you have done?
- b. Discuss a time when God's agenda was different than yours.

John 3:5-8 – *"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"*

- c. How does this text relate to carrying one's cross?

A test to help you know you've been drafted:

Matthew 16:24-25 – *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"*

Matthew 25:40 – *"The King said, 'When you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to Me...'"*

- d. How do these scriptures help you become "drafted" into service for the Lord? Explain.

Closing Prayer