

The cross of Christ
For the week of September 23 – 29

Prayer: That we might embrace the discomfort of life in Christ

Day 1: Matthew 10:11 – 42

Three questions to ponder:

- Where does Jesus call His disciples into discomfort??
- When you experienced these difficult kinds of situations?
- Where does Jesus say the strength to do this comes from?

Day 2: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 31

Three questions to ponder:

- How are Paul's words counter-cultural?
- Where do you experience the tension this text calls for?
- If you consider your social standing, do you fit into what God 'chose' in v.26-29? How do we reconcile this?

Day 3: Matthew 20:1 – 16

Two questions to ponder:

- How does this parable create tension in the believer?
- Most of us have started working in God's vineyard early in the day. How do you feel when consider the thief on the cross who 'gets in' with just a few moments of 'belief'?

Day 4: Galatians 6:11 – 18

Three questions to ponder:

- What makes the cross the crux for Paul?
- When, if ever, have you "boasted in the cross"?
- What would it sound like to boast in the cross of Jesus?

Day 5: John 19:16 – 30

Three questions to ponder:

- What is unique about how John speaks of the cross?
- What other humiliation occurs for Jesus as He is crucified?
- What "is finished" when Jesus says this from the cross?

Further Reflection: As you consider the cross, what songs, Bible passages, thoughts and emotions come to mind? How do the passages above invite further reflection? And PRAISE?!