



Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

Week of
March 27

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:18-25

Sermon Title: “The Inverted Power of the Cross of Jesus”

Here, in these verses from I Corinthians, we see the true description of the inverted power of Jesus. It is foolish in the eyes of the world – power is to be wielded not abandoned. The world cannot even recognize this power, it seems foolish, antithetical to any definition of power or wisdom (or strength).

But for us it is the true demonstration of the power of God, which is power that saves us, from that which we cannot be saved from by any other means. If this is God’s power, then it is the only true power. The power of the cross – the greatest and the truest power of all – is defined by its inversion. It is defined by sacrifice, by abandoning power for the self to give power and dignity to others. This is what God, in Christ, has done for us. This is what God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – requires of us and empowers us to do.

Questions:

1. Read I Corinthians 1:18-25.

What does Paul claim that the cross does for us?

As Christians, we are used to accepting the reality of the cross, but in your own words, why does the cross of Christ save?

2. Paul is knocking down the wisdom of the world; a wisdom that God sees as foolish.

How would you describe the “wisdom of the world”?

3. Paul says that Christ crucified is “a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.”

What about the Christian faith, rooted in the cross of Christ, leads Paul to say this?

Are there modern versions of those who would believe that the cross of Christ is a “stumbling block” or “foolishness”?