

THE THINGS HE CARRIED

SESSION 4

HIS FOLLOWERS' DISAPPOINTMENTS

Read through this chapter and then read again and pause to think at the following points:

".. they thought he was going to be a different sort of king."

- What had the disciples expected and why?
- Could disappointment be part of the reason why they all deserted him?
- Do you allow disappointments to draw you away from Jesus?
- Did you have a different picture of what being a Christian would be?
- How did the women find understanding?

".. he was a second Adam revealing a new humanity."

Read 1 Corinthians 15:22 and Romans 5:7-9.

- Do we understand why Jesus had to die?
- Can we even begin to understand the depths of suffering Jesus experienced on the cross.

".. he was a second Moses revealing a new covenant."

- In what ways was this new covenant different from that of the one given to Moses?
- Does, or did, it take a long time for the penny to drop for you?

"But they stopped following when they found out what a Messiah really is."

- This goes back to the first question. Jesus said in Luke 9:62, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plough and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God." Are we tempted to look back and try "following afar off"?
- Have we begun to understand: "What it meant to Thee, the Holy One, to bear away my sin."
- Their response was betrayal. Can we honestly say we would not have done that?

"He carried the terrible possibility that it was all in vain. That he could walk at their side for ever and never be recognized, never be known..."

- Let us all pray that we will never forget all that Jesus has done for us.

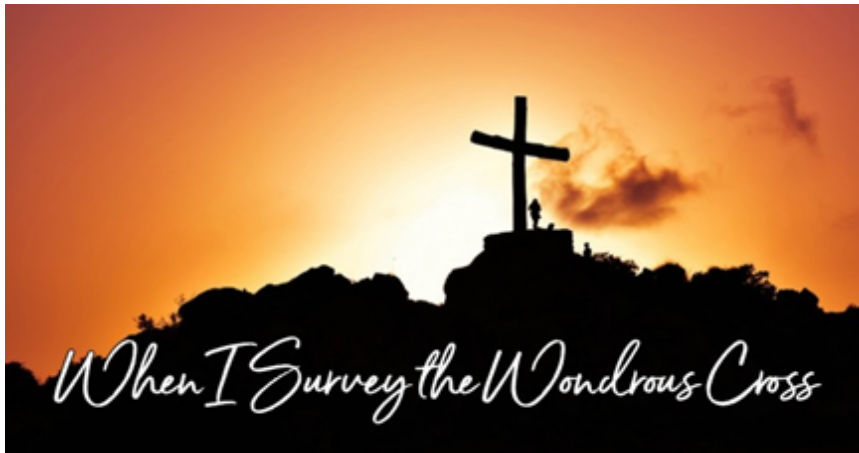
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

- How do those words make you feel? Can we ever understand the depths of agony as Jesus cried out?
- Let us do everything we can to ensure that "we get it".

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Following the reflection, read Mark 9:30-37 and try, honestly, to answer the questions.

Many of us know what it is like to be let down, to be misunderstood and sometimes to think its all been for nothing. If we have felt those things, surely Jesus must have too, because the Bible says that he was made in the likeness of human flesh.



The hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", was written by Isaac Watts, and published in Hymns and Spiritual Songs in 1707. It is significant for being an innovative departure from the early English hymn style of only using paraphrased biblical texts.

1. When I survey the wond'rous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest Gain I count but Loss,
And pour Contempt on all my Pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the Death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

3. See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet,
Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!
Did ever such Love and Sorrow meet?
Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?

4. His dying Crimson, like a Robe,
Spreads o'er his Body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the Globe,
And all the Globe is dead to me.

5. Were the whole Realm of Nature mine,
That were a offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so Divine
Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.