**Sermon Notes**

**“The Crucifixion”**

Mark 15:21–32

21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. 22 They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. 24 And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. 25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. 26 The written notice of the charge against him read: the king of the jews. 27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. 28 29 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30 come down from the cross and save yourself!” 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! 32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

1. Following Jesus means a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into something \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* 21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

2. Jesus shows us the importance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, rather than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.

* 23 Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

3. On the cross, Jesus shows us the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* 31 In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself!

**Questions for Discussion**

1. If you could summarize the sermon in one minute for group members who didn't hear it, what would you say?

2. What insight from the message left the biggest impression on you? Why?

3. From your personal experience, how can you illustrate one of Jeff’s three points from the sermon?

4. What short and long-term consequences come from avoiding painful realities in our lives?

5. In what ways are you tempted to avoid/dull pain in your life? What steps could you take in learning how to embrace suffering?

6. How are you being called to re-direct your life in order to align with Jesus’ kingdom call to bear suffering and pain in order to love and serve others?