



Week 15: The Magnificent Desolation

Mark 15 is the fulfillment of the promise made in Genesis 3:15. The crucifixion of Jesus marks the climactic moment in redemptive history—when God made good on His word to crush the head of Satan. Sin separated us from God, but through Jesus’ sinless life and sacrificial death, our relationship is restored and our hope renewed.

Discussion Questions:

1. *Magnificent Desolation* is a phrase Buzz Aldrin used to describe the moon, but how does it describe our human condition? In what ways do you personally see both beauty and brokenness in your life and/or in the world?
2. Why do you think God chose a sacrificial system to deal with sin in the Old Testament? What does it reveal about the seriousness of sin and the cost of forgiveness? How does it ultimately point us to Jesus?
3. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. What are some modern-day “fig leaves” people use to cover shame, guilt, or sin? How does the idea that we can’t clothe ourselves change the way you view salvation and grace?
4. Jesus lived a sinless life. What does His obedience teach us about how to live in a broken world? Where are you being challenged to obey God right now?
5. Mark 15:38 says the curtain in the temple was torn in two. What does that symbolize—and what does it mean for our access to God today?
6. What emotions did you experience as you heard or read Mark 15? How does the crucifixion impact your understanding of God’s justice and mercy?