

WHAT IF JESUS?

WEEK 3 - WHAT IF JESUS NEVER DIED?

OVERVIEW

How would our world be different if Jesus had never died on the cross? Was it really so important for him to be executed in such a brutal manner? In this message, we will address head-on some of the misconceptions of the atonement in modern Christianity and explore the far deeper and more profound truth of what actually happened when Jesus died on the cross. This was not some divine business transaction to appease an angry God; it was an act of supreme love to begin the transformation of our entire cosmos and free humanity from our self-enslavement to the forces of this world.

This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What blessings has God offered us?
2. Barry states that "all sin is a rejection of the blessings of God." How is this true?
3. Why would people choose something other than God's blessing? is it really that simple? (see Deuteronomy 30:19)
4. Are you living in freedom from the powers of this world? Is your life filled with God's blessing? (Peace, abundance, joy...) Why or why not?
5. It's human nature to believe that if blessing is God giving us good things, then curses are God punishing us. But as Barry shared, that's not really how the story plays out. Discuss.
6. How have you experienced the curse of sin?
7. Read **Isaiah 53:3-6**. How did Jesus' death give us the ability to choose blessing again?
8. Read **Romans 8:1-3**. If Jesus never died, we would still be trapped under the enslaving power of sin. However, on the cross, the curse died with Jesus! It's nothing that we did; it's all about what *He* did. How might remembering this going forward be beneficial?

RESOURCES

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