

The Path to the Body of Christ

Part Two: The Cross in the Bible

Introduction

The Cross in the Old Testament

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22

The Cross in the New Testament

- John 3:13-16
- Jesus' Passion Predictions in Mark

Announcement of Jesus' Death	Failure on of the Disciples	Jesus Teaches on Discipleship
Jesus will suffer, be rejected, killed, and will rise after three days (8:31)	Peter rebukes Jesus (8:32-33)	Jesus commands them to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him (8:33-9:1)
Jesus will be delivered, killed, and will rise after three days (9:30-31)	The disciples do not understand the saying and are afraid to ask him about it (9:32)	Jesus teaches that the first must be last and that those who receive children in his name receive him (9:33-50)
Jesus will be delivered, condemned, mocked, flogged, killed, and will rise after three days (10:33-34)	James and John ask that they may sit next to Jesus in his oglory (10:35-37)	Jesus teaches that, to be great, they must become servants; to be first, they must become slaves; and that he came to serve by giving his life as a ransom for many (10:38-45)

- The Cross in Jesus' Passion in Mark
 - Mark 15:21, 15:30, 15:32

- The Cross and Crucified in St. Paul
 - Gal. 5:11, 6:12, 6:15
 - Eph. 2:16, Phil. 2:8, Phil. 3:18
 - Col. 1:20, 2:14
 - Rom. 6:6, 1 Cor. 1:13, 1 Cor. 1:23, 1 Cor 2:2, 1 Cor. 2:8
 - 2 Cor. 13:4, Gal. 2:20, Gal. 3:1, Gal. 5:24
 - 1 Cor. 1:17, 1 Cor. 1:18

- The Cross in Hebrews
 - Heb. 12:2
- The Cross in Peter
 - 1 Peter 2:21-25

The Cross in Jewish and Roman Culture

Shame and Foolishness of the Cross in Rome

But the executioner, the veiling of the head, and the very word “cross” (*nomen ipsum crucis*) should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes and his ears. For it is not only the actual occurrence of these things or the endurance of them, but liability to them, the expectation, nay the mere mention of them, that is unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man.¹⁴ -Cicero, 1st century BC

The Scandal of the Cross to the Jews

Deut. 21:22-23 “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.”

Further Reading

The Cross: History, Art, and Controversy, by Robin M. Jensen

Benediction

Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn, STM
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 Rocklin, California
 February 11, 2018
The Transfiguration of our Lord

