

Bro. K: "Why the Cross Matters"

This Church has devoted an inordinate amount of time to studying the cross. It is mentioned in every service in one way or another. Why is the cross so important as to take up so much of our thoughts and our time? Christ lived on earth for over 33 years. His death took six hours of one day. Isn't our continuous study of the crucifixion of Jesus a disproportionate amount of time for such a momentary event? Biographies of great men usually devote most of their pages to their life, not their death.

Of the biographies I have read (including biographies of men like Martin Luther King, Jr., John F. Kennedy and Mahatma Gandhi) who died violent and politically significant deaths- few devote more than 10 percent of their pages to the subject's death. The Gospels, though, devote a third of their length to the climactic last week of Jesus' life. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John saw His death as the central mystery of Jesus. Why?

A news report last summer from England illustrates the reason Christ's death matters. The reporter writes: "I was sitting on the sands of Scarborough, North Yorkshire, when a Royal Air Force Lightning jet flew by, skimming the surface of the sea before it turned and flew inland. A minute or two later it returned and went into a steep incline over Scarborough Castle. I thought the pilot was doing a stunt. Then, to our horror, the plane flipped and dropped to the sea. It crashed less than two hundred yards away from the beach. The pilot was killed."

The next day the newspaper headline on the crash read "Pilot Gives Life to Save Crowds." The story reported how, when his plane began to fail, the pilot chose not to eject himself and risk having the plane crash onto the crowded beach, but instead steered it away from the crowds.

When the pilot climbed into the plane that day, he had no idea that he would sacrifice his life to save a group of strangers. By contrast, the Lord Jesus deliberately left heaven and came to earth with the express intention of going to a death to "save the crowds."

This morning we remember the death of Jesus on the cross by observing the Lord's Supper. Take some time to think about the cross as we approach this holy moment.

Brandon's Blur: When I was a teenager, I got my first job washing dishes at the Gooseberry Diner in Carthage, MO. I made \$3.65 an hour and thought I was rich! Missouri law allowed 14-15 year olds to work 20 hours a week. That meant before taxes I made a nice \$73 a week.

It's funny how earning your own money transforms your perspective on how much something costs. When I would go to the store, I might find a movie I wanted to buy. Instead of thinking, "What's the 'sticker price'?", I started asking, "What does it **cost**"? A \$10 movie was 2 and a half hours of work. I can't tell you how many times I put one back on the shelf because *it wasn't worth the cost*. That was time I could never get back. I certainly didn't want to waste it on a \$10 movie. I saved a lot of money that way.

I don't know where that mentality came from. But I'm thankful to have had it. I wish I practiced it more twenty years later. In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus lays out the cost of discipleship. Jesus says, "whoever does not renounce **all that he has** cannot be my disciple." As Christians, we have to be willing to put it all back on the shelf to follow Jesus well. We only have so much time allotted to us. We have to spend it well and intentionally. I would challenge you all to look at your lives. What's your schedule like? What are you committed to? How busy are you? What are you actually accomplishing? Then, ask... is it worth the cost? If not, put it back on the shelf and do what matters: following Jesus.

Next Sunday is Easter

This is traditionally one of our highest attendance Sundays each year (VBS Sunday being the other). Because there will be more visitors than normal next week, there are some things I would ask of you in advance:

- * Please go out of your way to greet anyone you don't know. Make them feel at home-
- * Please sit as far toward the front of the sanctuary as you can, so visitors and late-comers don't have to walk to the front in full view of strangers-
- * Invite someone you know to Church next week. This is the one week each year they expect people to ask them to Church, so they will be more open to attending if you ask-
 - Be in prayer this week for Easter to be a time of
 - revival in each of us-

Welcome to SHBC

About SHBC

We are a group of Christ-followers who believe in the power of God to change lives. We want to see transformation take place in your life, and in your family's. We see that happening in this Church through the consistent teaching and preaching of God's Word, and through the encouragement and support of fellow believers. Our worship is simple and Spirit-led, meaning God is the focus of everything we do, because He alone is able to help; He alone is able to save; therefore, He alone is worthy of our devotion.

Our activities and teaching are centered around the Biblical directive to "make disciples." Simply put, everything we do is for the purpose of pointing people to Jesus, so they can become more like Him. SHBC is a relatively young Church, but a Church that God has already blessed in miraculous ways. We invite you to become a part of our family, and experience the power of Christ in your life.

Join The Family

The only biblical requirements for Church membership are that you are born again and have been baptized. That means that you have publicly professed your faith in Christ and then been baptized by immersion after your salvation. If that is the case, you are eligible for membership.

There are several different ways to join SHBC, depending on your situation. Please talk with our Pastor if you have questions about becoming a member here.

Thanks for Coming

If you are a visitor in our worship service today, we are thrilled to have you. Our prayer is that you are drawn into the presence of Christ during this time, and your encounter with Him will leave you more transformed into His image. If you are new to our community, or if you don't have a current Church home, we hope you will prayerfully consider Southern Heights Baptist Church as your regular place of worship.

If you are just visiting the Berryville area, we hope you enjoy your stay and will come back soon. In either case, we would like to have a record of your visit, and be made aware of any prayer concerns you might have.

Thank you for being here today.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Email: _____

I would like more information about Southern Heights: (Y) (N)

Prayer needs: _____

"CONCRETE AND CRANES" VBS

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it. Attached you will find a VBS Needs List Please look this over to see if you have (or can provide) any of the items on this list. Bring them by the Church anytime.



For your planning purposes, please note that the Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for use from May 23—June 18. We will be using the Hall on those dates for VBS prep, and then for VBS the week of June 7. Thank you for your grace, and your HELP, during those dates.

Wednesday Nights Are Back... Maybe...We Hope...We'll See

By Popular demand, we will be opening up our Wednesday night activities for all age groups. Children will have a new series of fun, Bible-based events; our Youth have already started meeting; and our Adults will return to our 6:00 p.m. Bible studies.

We want to begin as soon as possible.

HERE'S WHAT WE NEED TO GET STARTED:

We need a helper for infants and toddlers each Wednesday night from 5:45—7:15. If several volunteer, that means each person would only have to serve one night per month.

Southern Heights News

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Southern Heights Baptist Church

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WHAT'S YOUR STORY? III

The 'What's Your Story' Challenge:

We have challenged you to prepare and practice "Your Story" over these past several weeks. Your testimony of what God has done in your life can be a very powerful tool in reaching the lost. **Here's Your Story's Outline:**

Part 1– Describe what your life was like before you were introduced to Jesus and entered into relationship with Him.

Part 2– Describe how you came to understand your need for Christ. Then describe the moment of your salvation.

Part 3– Describe what your life has been like since you became a Christian.

That's it. One minute for each part; three minutes total. If you can condense your story into this three minute format, it will become the perfect lead-in to your closing question, "Have you experienced this kind of relationship with Jesus?"

NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.

LET'S HEAR YOUR STORY!

Here's the challenge:

1. We would like to video your story. Practice it, hone it down to three minutes. Then (over the next 3 weeks) let us video record your testimony, to be played back in our Church worship services.
2. For those of you with Facebook or other social media,
3. Between now and Easter Sunday (April 4), post your story in its entirety on your Facebook page for all the world to see.
4. Tell your story to someone in person.