

March 15, 2009
Romans 3:21-30

Lent 2009 - The Crux of It All

The Cross as the Great Equalizer

*There is no difference,
for all have sinned and fall short
of the glory of God
and are justified freely by his
grace through the redemption
that came by Christ Jesus.*
Romans 3:23-24

There are no winners.

ALL are eligible to receive new
life through Jesus Christ.

We are Sent to Follow; not
Sent to Lead.

We get the freedom to look at
other human beings as children
of God. The more we do this
the more the gospel comes
alive.

- Jeff Crotty

Recall the clip shown on Sunday from *Freaks an Geeks*. In what ways do you relate to this story?

READ Romans 3:21-30

Read the scripture twice today. The first time just listen to get the just of it. The second time listen for key phrases.

How would you summarize these verses?

What key phrases catch your attention?

Focus on verses 23-24 (text in left-hand column)

A lot of us have memorized verse 23. Why do you think we have memorized just this portion?

What difference does it make to add the bit at the end of 22 (“There is no difference”) and verse 24?

THE CROSS – the Great Equalizer

Fill in the following blank: “I am a sinner, no wonder I feel _____.”

In what ways do you get a sense of relief in the diagnosis that you are a sinner - that you can't keep up your part in the covenant with God?

Do you think most people think that the knowledge that they are a sinner is good news? Why or why not?

Do you feel like you are a winner because you know Jesus? How might this be causing you to see others as losers?

Who do you find it hard to see as eligible to receive the gospel?

What is the difference between being eligible to receive the gospel and likely to receive it?

Do you tend toward not sharing the good news of Jesus with someone because you think it won't be received or because you don't think they're eligible? How can you fight this tendency?

Who do you know that thinks Christians are hypocrites? Who do you know that is angry at God? Who do you know that is antagonistic toward God? Who do you know that has a vastly different view of God from you? Though this scripture, the sermon, and Sent to Follow, what are you hearing about how to relate to these people in a new way - in a life giving way?

Do you ever feel like you owe God? What can you do to fully live into receiving the grace offered through Jesus? How does your ongoing journey to grasp this help you relate with grace toward others?

PRAY TOGETHER!